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AUSTRALIA

ANGLICAN, CATHOLIC BISHOPS URGE HIGHER ASIAN REFUGEE INTAKE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 4 Aug 87 p 5

[Article by Peter Schumpeter]

[Text]

Three church leaders yesterday called on the Federal Government to increase Australia's intake of refugees by at least 10,000 a year. They accused the Government of not doing enough at the United Nations to help refugees migrate to Australia.

At a joint news conference, the Melbourne Anglican Archbishop, Dr David Penman, the Uniting Church moderator, Reverend Allan Thompson, and Bishop Joe O'Connell, representing the Catholic archdiocese of Melbourne, said the refugee intake had been reduced in recent years and needed to be restored to its former levels.

They said Australia's intake of refugees had fallen from a high of 21,917 in 1981-82 to about 12,000 in 1986-87. Fifteen million people are officially registered as refugees by United Nations agencies, with about 80 per cent of them finding refuge in Third World countries.

Archbishop Penman said the churches were not asking for increases in total immigration, but for refugees to form a greater number of those allowed. "The number should be increased by at

least 10,000 — that would bring it back to what it was five to 10 years ago," he said.

The decrease in refugees allowed into Australia had been occurring as the number of immigrants had risen. "There appears to be almost a constricting of the compassion of legislation towards refugee peoples, and that diminution of numbers which has gone with the increase in (overall migration) numbers is what makes it so hurtful," Archbishop Penman said.

He said the Government "was not making it easy" for many refugees to come to Australia, and he accused the Government of not doing enough at the United Nations regarding the refugee issue, especially for the several million Afghan refugees in Pakistan border camps.

"The United Nations needs to declare all of the people in those camps so that they could come to Australia, but they haven't actually completed doing that. There is some dispute as to whether they are simply displaced persons, and the international community appears to be conspiring together for some reason to ensure that these three, four, five million

people remain in this hopeless situation.

"Now Australia I think can bring some pressure to bear at the United Nations to ensure that the status of the Afghan peoples outside of their own country is actually clarified," Archbishop Penman said. But he said Australia had been downplaying the issue at the UN.

"Pakistan is one of the poorest countries in the world and yet they have very generously and open-heartedly received an amazing number of people. We have great difficulty in getting 100 Afghans into Australia in any one year and I'm involved in trying to increase those numbers from the refugee situation. But I have to say to you that the Government does not make it easy," he said.

Bishop O'Connell said the refugee issue posed one of the great problems of the 20th Century.

The media conference was part of 'One World Week', a yearly event sponsored by the Australian Council of Churches and the Catholic Church to promote the idea that everyone belongs to one world.

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CSO: 4200/848

DAILY ON LONGER PARLIAMENT PLAN: 'WELCOME NEWS'

Melbourne THE AGE in English 4 Aug 87 p 13

[Editorial: "Longer Parliaments Would Be Welcome"]

[Text]

DURING the recent election campaign the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, several times endorsed the general principle of four-year parliaments. So did the Opposition Leader, Mr Howard. For Australians, who have now been dragged to the polls three times in less than five years (not counting state elections), this was welcome news. In theory, the maximum term for Federal Parliament is three years. Since Federation, however, governments have found any number of excuses for calling an election earlier. As a result, the average parliamentary term since Federation has been two years and four months. National life has been dominated by the politics of short-term expediency rather than the politics of longer-term national interest.

If the Constitutional Commission has its way, all that will end. The commission has decided to recommend that the parliamentary term for the House of Representatives should be extended to a maximum of four years, the first three of which would be fixed. This would mean that the lower house could not be dissolved in the first three years unless a vote of no-confidence in the government was passed. Under the commission's plan the Opposition would lose the ability to force an election in the first three years by blocking supply in the Senate. Deadlocks between the two houses in those three years could be overcome by a joint sitting of both houses rather than by a double dissolution.

"We have no quarrel with any of this, nor with the suggestion that the term of office for a senator should be two terms of the House of Representatives. However, the problem would be to sell the parcel of reforms to the electorate at large. The changes would need to be approved by national referendum; and the history of referendums is not an encouraging one, particularly where there is not bipartisan support for them or where the proposal itself is complex or contentious.

With this in mind, the Government would be best advised to proceed in stages, concentrating on extending the present triennial system first (as four states and the Northern Territory have already done) and leaving reform of the Senate to a later date. This way it could be sure of the Opposition's support, and probably the support of an election-weary public, too. It is a proposal that is in everybody's interests — the public's no less than the politicians'.

TOP COMPANIES PROFIT FROM LOWER TAXES

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 3 Aug 87 p 25

[Article by Alex Pollak]

[Text]

Australia's top-listed companies are recording stronger profits on increased sales with better margins — but last year paid an average tax rate 15 per cent below the official level.

This was an even lower level than the tax rate of the previous year, which was only 10 per cent below the *prima facie* rate of 46c in the dollar.

The statistical evidence on tax rates comes in the wake of a crackdown on the sharemarket darlings by the Taxation Commission, revealed last week, aimed at recouping millions of dollars annually.

Figures prepared by the Statex Service of the stock exchange in its annual financial and profitability study show that the average tax rate on a sample of the top 380 listed companies* declined from 40.95 per cent of gross profit for the financial year ending before December 31, 1986, compared with 39.07 per cent for the previous corresponding period — a decline of 4.5 per cent for the year.

The four-year figures show a fall of almost 2 percentage points during the period.

The fall has taken place as the corporate tax level actually has remained constant at 46 per cent.

It must also be seen against a background of an all company average increase in profit of 34.79 per cent over the past three years, on sales which have grown an

average 18.79 per cent over the period.

The tax department already has declared its intention to pursue more actively the top 100 companies in a bid to recoup millions in lost revenue.

The top 100 listed companies (3 per cent of listed companies) account for 80 per cent of company tax revenue.

The lowest collective tax rate, predictably, was recorded by the entrepreneurial investors, a sector which includes Elders IXL, Bell and IEL (see table). At only 20.6 per cent of gross profit, the sector's tax rate figure is the same as the 1985 figure, but 3 per cent lower than the rate recorded the previous year.

Developers and contractors, which include Hooker Corporation Ltd and Westfield Holdings Ltd, also enjoyed a lower tax rate at just 28.17 per cent of gross profit.

The authoritative survey also outlines the progress of companies in terms of profit, sales, earnings a share and return on shareholders' funds (see table).

It shows that entrepreneurial investors, as well as having the lowest tax rate, also benefited from the biggest three-year profit growth — 69.72 per cent — compared with 19.62 per cent profit growth for developers.

This entrepreneurial profit growth was achieved on much smaller average sales growth for the period of 30.36 per cent, a

reflection in part of the big profits made from investment, which require little by way of capital or labour infrastructure.

Other sectors to score well include in terms of average three-year profit growth are diversified resources — although the figure of 51.53 per cent represents growth from a low base — as well as insurance (44.1 per cent) and transport (38.13 per cent).

The greatly increased margins are also a reflection of the benefits of rationalisation undertaken by corporate Australia in recent years — spurred on in no small way by the threat of takeover from an increasingly sophisticated group of entrepreneurs.

The table shows those sectors which recorded the greatest increase in earnings a share growth.

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AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY COLUMNIST INTERPRETS ACTU REPORT

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 3 Aug 87 p 25

["Monday Comment" column by Ross Gittins, Economics Editor: "The Real Message of ACTU's Report"]

[Text] Slowly the light is dawning that the report of the ACTU's mission to Western Europe, Australia Reconstructed, has to be read between the lines. But so far, its real message has been perceived dimly, if at all.

The real message of the report is that the ACTU leadership is anxious to shift from its bipartite Accord with the Labor Government to a tripartite incomes policy which is negotiated primarily with the employers, with the Government playing a much reduced role. This objective is shared by the Government, following business's ultimately hostile reaction to the ill-fated Accord Mark II.

So the report is an attempt to advance the process, which began with the abandonment of Accord Mark II and wage indexation, and the move to the two-tier wage-fixing system. The report's underlying concern is with what arrangements will replace the two-tier system.

It's not adequately appreciated that the two-tier system always was a short-term, stop-gap affair; a brief transition stage between the old world of indexation and some new, permanent system more appropriate to Australia's international trading environment. The Arbitration Commission's hearing to consider the shape of that new system begin as early as May next year.

What the ACTU is seeking is a system which is more appropriate, more flexible and less centralised than the old one, but which is, nonetheless, an alternative to the simple deregulation of the labour market and the wholesale dismantling of arbitration. As always, it is willing to negotiate, to compromise and to abandon claims, but--not unreasonably--it is seeking concessions from the employers in return.

It is offering to trade continued wage restraint, embodied in an unprecedented acceptance that wages should be fixed on the basis of maintaining international competitiveness, in return for employer acceptance of the unions' "wider agenda"--greater participation in business decisions about investment, restructuring and training.

The hardly hidden agenda of Australia Reconstructed is the ACTU's desire to see Australia move further towards corporatism---that's what tripartism means. The word frightens many people; less threatening synonyms are consensus and social partnership: the recognition that labour and capital get better results if they pull together, and the Government facilitates the process.

What the report obscures rather than clarifies is that greater tripartism doesn't necessarily involve greater centralisation or greater government intervention. It can, but it doesn't have to. And if the employers are prepared to play ball, they can make the price of their co-operation an insistence that it doesn't.

The unions don't seriously want to see implemented the report's plethora of (blood-curdling) recommendations for development funds, price freezes, controls on pension funds and all the rest. They know they'd never persuade the Hawke Government to touch that stuff.

Those appalling recommendations are there for internal consumption to coat the bitter pill of yet further wage restraint, to cover the retreat of particular union officials who not so long ago were advocating the socialisation of the means of production, and to fabricate bargaining counters. The report's (empty) threat to the employers is: if you refuse to cut us in on business decision-making, we'll persuade our mates in the Government to impose it on you through legislation.

But if the unions' ideological baggage is showing, so too is the employers'. The Business Council's response shows that it has failed to penetrate the report's rhetoric. It says it wants a shift to an "enterprise-based industrial relations system"; it fails to see that it can have this provided it occurs within parameters and guidelines set centrally. What do you think they do in Sweden?

It vehemently opposes government-imposed "industrial democracy", while vigorously advocating voluntary "employee participation"; it fails to see that it can sink industrial democracy provided its members make a commitment to introducing employee participation (in decisions about investment, restructuring and training).

The Business Council's real problem is that it thinks wage restraint grows on trees. It imagines it can sit in a corner perfecting its vision of enterprise-based industrial relations, while Bill Kelty goes on delivering more and better wage restraint without being able to show his troops the "concessions" he has won from employers in return.

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INDONESIA

MALAYSIAN GENERAL ON NEED FOR JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 16 Aug 87 pp A3, A4

[Text] Surabaya, Aug 16 (ANTARA) - Visiting Deputy Chief of Staff of the Royal Malaysian Army Lt. Gen. Dato Jaacob bin Zain has said that joint military exercises between Indonesia and Malaysia need to be carried out regularly in order to make the military personnel of the two armies more familiarize.

Speaking to newsmen in Malang, south of here, after closely observing the Keris-Kartika Malaysia-Indonesia (Kekar-Malindo) joint military exercise in Blitar, East Java, Saturday, he further said that such an exercise had been jointly carried out by the two countries since 1977. But joint exercises by involving troops from the two armies had only been carried out two times, the first one in 1979 and the second in 1987, he added.

The main aim of this exercise, he went on, was to improve the capabilities of the troops in a conventional war in certain mountainous regions.

He also disclosed that the number of Malaysian troops involved in the exercise was one company consisting of artillery, engineering and mortar units.

According to him, the Malaysian troops faced no difficulties during the five-day joint military exercise in Blitar.

He also said that the next exercise would be held in Malaysia.

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INDONESIA

GEOOTHERMAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH NEW ZEALAND SIGNED

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 19 Aug 87 p A2

[Text] Jakarta, August 14 (ANTARA) - Indonesia and New Zealand Friday agreed here to work together in the evaluation and study of geothermal energy in Indonesia now having a potential of approximately 10,000 MWs, the equivalent of 400,000 barrels of oil per day.

The cooperation was signed at the Department of Mines and Energy by Secretary General Atwar Nurhadi and New Zealand Ambassador G.M. Parkinson.

Atwar Nurhadi said this was not the first time that New Zealand assisted Indonesia in the development of geothermal energy. Five years ago, he added, New Zealand helped Indonesia explore geothermal energy resources. The Kamojang geothermal field, he said, was the place where for the first time geothermal energy was discovered in Indonesia in December 1974 as the result of a cooperation between the two countries.

Kamojang lies about 42 kms southeast of Bandung, the capital of West Java province.

Indonesia's first geothermal electric power generating plant was dedicated by Minister of Mines and Energy Subroto at Kamojang on November 27, 1978.

Geothermal energy resources had been discovered in West Java, Central Java, Bali island, East Java, North Sulawesi, South Lampung, Sumatera, North Maluku and Flores island.

One of the geothermal energy resources that had been successfully developed were those at the Dien plateau. The result of a test of Dieng 1 and Dieng 2 demonstrated that the region has a potential for generating about 2,000 MWs of electric power.

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INDONESIA

NONOIL EXPORTS UP, LNG EXPORTS DOWN

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 11 Aug 87 pp A3, A4

[Text] Jakarta, August 11 (ANTARA) - The value of Indonesian nonoil/gas commodity exports in the first semester of 1987 recorded an increase of about 5.1 per cent compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, according to temporary data received by ANTARA from Bank Indonesia. In the first semester of 1986 the value of Indonesian nonoil/gas commodity exports stood at US\$ 3,194 million, while the corresponding period in 1987 the export value of these commodities recorded US\$ 3,357 million; an increase of US\$ 163 million or 5.1 per cent.

Indonesia's nonoil/gas commodities, exported during the first semester of 1987, consisted of timber products, coffee, tin, rubber, copper, palm oil, shrimps, tobacco, pepper and cement, with Japan, the US, Taiwan, Hongkong, the European Economic Community, the Middle East and the socialist countries of East Europe as countries of destination.

LNG Exports

Meanwhile, the export of Indonesian liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the first five months (January through May) of 1987 recorded a decline of about 30.3 per cent compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

In the first five months of 1986, Indonesian LNG export recorded a value of US\$ 1,448 million, while in the corresponding period of 1987 it stood only at US\$ 1,009 million, a decline of about US\$ 439 million or 30.3 per cent.

LNG, exported during the first five months of 1987, came from the Badak field worth US\$ 431 million and from the Arun field worth US\$ 578 million.

The main importers of Indonesian LNG are Japan and South Korea.

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INDONESIA

RICE 'SUPER INTENSIFICATION' SCHEME IN WEST NUSATENGGARA

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 14 Aug 87 pp A1, A2

[Text] Mataram, August 14 (ANTARA) - An area of 33,000 hectares have been made available in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) for the cultivation of rice under the "Supra Insus" (super intensification) scheme in the coming 1987/1988 planting season which will start next November.

This was announced by NTB Governor H. Gatot Soeherman Thursday in the efforts to increase food production as well as the farmers income.

The Supra Insus operation will be carried out in two regencies, viz. Lombok Tengah (16,000 HA) and Lombok Timur (17,000 HA), involving 1,123 farmer groups and 25 KUDs (village cooperative units).

For the Supra Insus operation the necessary fertilizer and pesticides will also be made available for the two regencies.

According to the governor the Supra Insus scheme is one of the efforts of the government to increase agricultural production from an average of six tons per HA to nine tons per HA.

The success of this operation depends on the use of superior seeds and through balanced fertilizing, he added.

"We have to be grateful that NTB has been entrusted to carry out this Supra Insus operation, because not all provinces in Indonesia have been deemed capable of implementing", he said.

Of the 27 provinces in Indonesia only seven have been assigned to carry out the Supra Insus operation, viz. West Sumatra, South Sulawesi, West Java, Central Java, East Java, Yogyakarta and NTB.

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INDONESIA

BIOGRAPHIC ITEMS ON VARIOUS POLITICAL, MILITARY LEADERS

BOERHANUDIN HARAHAP DIES--Boerhanudin Harahap, S.H. [Master of Laws], prime minister of Indonesia from 1955 to 1956, died from a heart attack at the age of 70 yesterday at about 9:30 in the morning western Indonesian time in Harapan Kita Hospital. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 15 Jun 87 p 1] 9846

COL HADI BAROTO, MILITARY POLICE COMMANDANT--At Indonesian Military Police Headquarters yesterday Gen Try Sutrisno, Army chief of staff, presided over the ceremony transferring the position of Indonesian Army military police commandant from Brig Gen Sardjono to Col (CPM [Military Police Corps]) Hadi Baroto. Col (CPM) Hadi Baroto, the new Army military police commandant, is a 1964 graduate of the Magelang Military Academy. He was born in 1941 and since 1985 he has been Army military police commandant of the Greater Jakarta Military Region Command. In 1982 he served as Military Police Chief for Military Region Command V/Brawijaya in East Java. Col Hadi had the brevet of paratrooper when he was commander of platoon II, Battalion I/paratroopers Army Military Police. As is usually the case with graduates of the Magelang Military Academy who serve in the military police, Hadi was once assigned to a unit guarding the president. He was deputy commandant of the special security unit of the presidential guard in 1973-1974. He was then assigned to the Indonesian Armed Forces Military Police Headquarters as Chief of the Intelligence Bureau of the Indonesian Armed Forces Military Police Intelligence Assistant. Brig Gen Sardjono, the previous commandant, has been assigned to serve the remainder of his active duty in the Army at Army Headquarters. Brig Gen Sardjono was born in 1932. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 16 Jun 87 pp 1, 12] 9846

MAJ GEN DRS SOEBAGJO NEW PTIK HEAD--In a military ceremony held in Jakarta this morning, Police General Drs Moch, Sanoesi, head of the Indonesian Police Force, inaugurated Police Maj Gen Drs Soebagjo as governor of the Police Science College (PTIK), succeeding Police Maj Gen Drs Soedarto. The former governor was assigned to Police Headquarters in preparation for his retirement. The new governor has been chief of police for East Java. Soebagjo is well-known to PTIK alumni since he was a student there and was a fellow graduate of the head of the Indonesian Police Force Police General Drs Moch. Sanoesi. He graduated in the seventh PTIK class together with several officers who now hold important posts at Police Headquarters. According to notes taken by PEMBARUAN the new PTIK governor is 54 years old

and has had the following posts: head of the North and Central Sulawesi regional police force located in Menado; head of the South and Southeast Sulawesi regional police force located in Ujung Pandang; and head of the East Java regional police force. He has also been deputy head of the Greater Jakarta regional police force. Soebagjo is short and stout. He began to become well-known when he headed the Police Headquarters Criminal Laboratory. In this position he solved several important murder cases. He was then entrusted with the position of deputy head of the Greater Jakarta regional police force under Police Maj Gen Anton Soedjarwo, now a retired police force general. [Excerpts] [Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 22 Jun 87 p 2] 9846

BRIG GEN (RET.) H. SOETRAN DIES--Brig Gen (Ret.) H. Soetran, former governor of Irian Jaya, died at the age of 66 at 10:10 in the morning yesterday in Darmo Hospital, where he had been under treatment for cancer of the liver for 2 weeks. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 2 Jul 87 p 8] 9846

GEN ANTON SOEDJARWO RETIRES--Police Gen Anton Soedjarwo, 57 years old, former chief of the Indonesian police force, retired this week. He was among 13 high-ranking police officers who have retired since 1 July, the 41st anniversary of the force. Other retirees include: Police Maj Gen Drs Tjuk Sumiarso, former head of the Nusa Tenggara regional police force; Police Maj Gen Drs H. Soedarto, former governor of the PTIK [Police Science College]; and Police Brig Gen Drs Soedjadi, S.H. [Master of Laws], former director of police force investigation. [Excerpts] [Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 4 Jul 87 p 28] 9846

BOGOR AGRICULTURE INSTITUTE RECTOR--Last Saturday [4 July] Prof Dr Sukadji Ranuwihardjo, director general of the Office of Higher Education, inaugurated Prof Dr Engineer Sitanala Arsyad as the new rector of the Bogor Agriculture Institute (IPB), succeeding the former head Prof Dr Engineer H Andi Hakim Nasoetion, who had been rector of the IPB for two terms. The new rector had been first deputy for academic affairs. He was formerly the president of Lampung University (UNILA) for two terms (1973 to 1981). Sitanala was born in Gunungsugih, Central Lampung, on 21 March 1934. His experience as president of UNILA and as IPB first deputy is a strong background for carrying out his future duties. He is a 1961 graduate of the University of Indonesia (UI) School of Agriculture. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 6 Jul 87 p 6] 9846

SOCIAL AFFAIRS LEADERSHIP TRANSFER--The position of secretary general of the Department of Social Affairs [DEPSOS] was transferred in Jakarta this morning from Army Brig Gen (ret.) Tulus Supranoto, S.H. [Master of Laws], to Army Maj Gen Sarwono. Supranoto, who had been secretary general of DEPSOS since 12 September 1983, is going to retire and is returning to Army Headquarters. The new secretary general has been Army headquarters territorial assistant/KOPKAMTIB [Command for the Restoration of Security and Order]. The new secretary general's career began about 1978 when he held the post of commander of military area command 072/Pamungkas DIY [Yogyakarta]. He succeeded in pacifying and cooling down social unrest in the Yogyakarta area. At that time Col Sarwono had close relations to local artists, students, intellectuals and the press. He was then promoted

to chief of staff for the Tanjungpura military district in East Kalimantan, and later on chief of staff for the Diponegoro military district in Central Java. Before being assigned to Jakarta he had been deputy commander for the Irian Jaya and Maluku defence region command. [Excerpts] [Jakarta SINAR PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 8 Jul 87 pp 1, 12] 9846

SUPARMAN INAUGURATED LOGISTICS HEAD-- In a military ceremony held at the Air Force Headquarters parade ground last Saturday [4 July] Air Vice Marshal Suparman was inaugurated as deputy Air Force chief of staff for logistics (DELOG), succeeding air vice marshal Ibnoe Subroto. Subroto has been chief of the National Space and Flight Institute since last April. Suparman, who was born in Bandung, was 51 years old on the day of his inauguration. He began his Air Force career after graduating from Flight School in 1961. He completed Flight Instructors' School in 1963. He was also a member of the fourteenth class of LEMHANNAS [National Defence Institute], graduating in 1981. In 1981 he was entrusted with the position of commandant of Halim Perdanakusumah air base in Jakarta, and in 1983 he was promoted to WAASPERSMAN [deputy assistant to Army Headquarters general chief of staff. In 1986 he was promoted to governor of the Air Force Academy in Yogyakarta. He now has the important post of deputy Air Force chief of staff for logistics. [Excerpts] [Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJATA in Indonesian 7 Jul 87 p 10] 9846

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INDONESIA

BRIEFS

CORN IMPORTS--Maize imports have over the last few years still reached the level of around 20,000-25,000 tons annually. These imports are particularly meant to supply livestock feed industries. Self sufficiency in maize, which also requires production quality promotion, is expected to be achieved within one to two years. According to data of the Ministry of Agriculture, maize production last year based on provisional figures reached about 5.931 million tons, which were turned out by a total harvest area of 3.052 million hectares, with an average output of 19.43 quintals per hectare. In 1987, maize production is first estimated at 5.907 million tons from a total harvest area of 3.068 hectares with an average output of 19.15 quintals per hectare. Based on a second estimate, the production will rise to 5.954 million tons from a total area of 3.042 million hectare with an average output of 19.57 quintals per hectare. [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 19 Aug 87 p 6] /13046

CSO: 4200/839

THAI REPORTER REFUTES DK CLAIMS ON SIEM REAP OPERATIONS

42070254 Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai 15-21 Jul 87 pp 24, 25

[Unattributed report: "Journal of the Community Action Party: A Trip to Cambodia"]

[Text] The latest issue of the journal of the Community Action Party published several very interesting articles. One of these was the column "Travels in the Wide World." The writer described the things that he had seen while traveling in Cambodia and gave some of his own views.

A SU ANAKHOT reporter who follows the Community Action Party told the editor that how interesting this article is depends on the viewpoint of each person. A reporter cannot determine this.

The writer used the word "I" when describing the things that he saw. But in this article, we will not reveal his identity. About this travels in Cambodia, he wrote:

I traveled to Phnom Penh and Angkor Wat on 24 March 1987. This was the same period that Mr Khieu Samphan of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea was interviewed by reporters, which was reported on some television channels. During the same period, the Khmer Rouge radio reported that Khmer coalition forces were staging a major attack on Angkor Wat or Siam Reap. The reports stated that their forces had attacked and seized this and that point and destroyed Vietnamese military bases. When these reports were issued, I was visiting the ruins of Angkor Wat together with three American friends and a Thai friend. The others in our group included 40 UNICEF officials stationed in Phnom Penh and about 20 Japanese tourists.

When we reached Angkor Wat, I chatted with several of the 12 Indian archeologists who had come to repair Angkor Wat with the support of the Indian government. After talking with them about many things, I ended by asking about their safety and about harassment by forces of the Khmer coalition government. I asked whether these forces have frequently launched attacks in Siem Reap or the Angkor Wat-Angkor Thom zone as reports have stated. The answer was that the "people here are living quite peacefully. I have lived here for several months now and nothing has happened while I have been here. If there was any trouble here, the 12 of us could not do this work."

I did not want to ask any more questions. I first visited Angkor Wat just 6 months after Pol Pot and Ieng Sary were driven out of Cambodia. I never saw anything unusual. The villagers who had been driven out of their homes by the Khmer Rouge and who had managed to survive were beginning to return. There were about 9 or 10 Vietnamese soldiers present. Other than that, there were about five or six militiamen from Siem Reap who occasionally disappeared into the jungle or who walked along with us to provide protection.

After that, I visited Angkor Wat several more times. This is the sixth time since the Heng Samrin government took control of Cambodia 8 years ago. I have never seen any sign of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary or coalition government forces. And none of the villagers has ever told me about coalition forces operating around Angkor Wat or in Siem Reap.

"The only ones are those who have decided to surrender to our government. We forgive them and allow them to return and live with their families. They are allowed to live as ordinary people," said a high-level official in Siem Reap when I asked him about this 2 years ago on my fifth visit. "There are a few who are still causing trouble. Some have been paid to stir up trouble in order to tarnish the government's image or create a sensation along the Thai border. But nothing has ever happened here."

Villagers and officials of the tourist organization all told me the same thing. I tend to disbelieve the statements made by Mr Khieu Samphan during interviews and the radio reports broadcast from Beijing and Yunnan, which state that coalition forces have launched attacks here and there. The number of casualties that they inflict seems to be fewer than the daily number of victims of traffic accidents in Bangkok.

As for the reports about the attacks on military bases, perhaps Mr Khieu Samphan doesn't know that there aren't any Vietnamese bases at Angkor Wat. In Siem Reap, no one has ever seen such a base. People have said that there may be bases in the jungle along the Thai border. But they don't know where they are. I pointed out things to a professor from Philadelphia and others working for UNICEF as the car drove us from the Grand Hotel past fields and forests to Angkor Wat. We saw many huts with thatched roofs. Those were the "military bases" near Angkor Wat. Some of these "soldiers" were wearing loincloths and were out planting vegetables and trying to make a living as if nothing was happening.

I don't know how they could have attacked military bases and killed tens of soldiers, because there aren't any bases or large concentrations of troops here to attack. And there is no reason to fight here even though Angkor Wat is very large. More than 100 foreign tourists were visiting Angkor Wat, and approximately 100 villagers were at the temple there to make merit. Sermons and announcements broadcast in Cambodian from microphones reverberated throughout the area. There was just one policeman on duty there.

The reports that I had heard in Thailand about the situation in Cambodia reminded me once again that politics is a matter of lies and deceit. In particular, international politics is often a matter of lies and deceit. What the people are told is often very different from the truth.

On 18 April, just a few days after I returned from Phnom Penh, one television channel broadcast a report about Cambodia and Angkor Wat. They showed pictures of what was supposed to have happened. But what they had done was to combine old and new pictures, which purported to show what was happening in Cambodia now. Even the dance classes being held at Silapakon College in Cambodia were reported as taking place at Angkor Wat. To do this, they used pictures that had been taken in front of Angkor Wat as part of a feature movie.

The SU ANAKHOT reporter reported that the author of the article that appeared in the journal of the Community Action Party had more to say than this. But SU ANAKHOT's objective is to give readers an idea of how interesting this article is. And so we will stop here. Readers can read the full article in the journal of the Community Action Party.

11943

SOVIETS WANT BROADER ECONOMIC TIES

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 1 Aug 87 p 16

[Text]

THE Soviet Union supports "intensified and broader economic ties" with Malaysia "for stepping up our bilateral trade".

Acting Soviet Prime Minister Mr V.S. Murakhovsky said the two countries have not yet tapped all the existing possibilities. The bilateral talks held have already shown that "we are in a position to enhance significantly our ties in different economic areas which would be beneficial for our two countries."

Speaking at the official dinner in honour of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Mr Murakhovsky noted the increasing bilateral contacts.

"The Soviet Union and Malaysia are in one and the same Asia-Pacific region and they are interested in their common home becoming peaceful and secure," he added.

Mr Murakhovsky said the growing contacts between Malaysia and the Soviet Union are of special importance in view of the complicated and tense situation in the world which urgently demands that all states, irrespective of their size and socio-economic systems, participate effectively and responsibly in the efforts to avert the threat of nuclear catastrophe, to ensure peace and security on our planet.

The acting Soviet Prime Minister noted while views coincided it is important that in comparing their assessments and views the two countries understand each other

better.

Mr Murakhovsky said the USSR is a consistent and convinced supporter of turning Asia, the areas of the Pacific and Indian oceans, into a realm of peace, good neighbourliness and cooperation.

"We consider security in that area is a major prerequisite and an integral element for the establishment of a comprehensive international security system," he added.

On Kampuchea, Mr Murakhovsky said while the two countries have differences of opinion on the question of the origin and substance of the conflict, both are unanimous that there is only one way to its settlement — that of a political dialogue with the participation of all patriotic national forces of the country and all other parties concerned.

"Any constructive initiatives and practical steps aimed at the re-establishment of stable and just peace in South-East Asia will find understanding and support in the Soviet Union," he said.

He added that the Soviet Union shared the conviction that the states of the region possess sufficient political wisdom to find solutions to questions related to Kampuchea.

Mr Murakhovsky added that the interdependence of the world today means that no country — no matter how far from the line of nuclear confrontation it may be — can live a peaceable and sound life while the danger of nuclear war is not eliminated.

/13046

CSO: 4200/838

MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA-SOVIET UNION BILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNED

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 1 Aug 87 p 16

[Article by Hardev Kaur]

[Text]

MALAYSIA and the Soviet Union signed four bilateral agreements to facilitate and enhance bilateral trade, economic and political relations.

One of the agreements signed was between the National Chamber of Industry of Malaysia and the Soviet Chamber of Commerce.

The other three agreements are the avoidance of double taxation, the maritime transport agreement and the Soviet-Malaysian protocol on consultations.

The protocol on consultations was signed by Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar for Malaysia while Mr Shevardnadze signed for the Soviet Government. Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Paduka Rafidah Aziz signed the avoidance of double taxation agreement for Malaysia while Mr Gostev signed for the Soviet Union and Works Minister Datuk S. Samy Vellu signed the maritime transport agreement.

The double taxation agreement provides for the avoidance of incidence of double taxation and will remove the tax barrier to trade and investment between the two countries.

To date, Malaysia has signed

the avoidance of double taxation agreement with 25 countries including East Germany, China, Rumania, Canada, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, Bangladesh, France and Switzerland.

There is now almost no Soviet investments in Malaysia. It is hoped that with the agreement there will be greater scope in future.

The maritime transport agreement provides for the most favoured nation treatment when the vessels of the two countries call at each other's ports.

It is understood that the agreement provides for the setting up of a consultative committee comprising representatives from Malaysia and the Soviet Union to resolve any problems that may arise during the course of its implementation.

The use of each other's vessels for the carriage of goods will also help increase the trade between the two countries.

While the details of the agreement between the two chambers are not immediately available it is understood that it calls for closer cooperation in the economic and trade matters.

/13046
CSO: 4200/838

HUNGARIAN INVESTMENTS EXPECTED, POSSIBLE AREAS TO BE IDENTIFIED

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 31 Jul 87 p 16

[Article by Hardev Kaur]

[Text]

MALAYSIA can expect Hungarian investments in several areas following discussions of the businessmen with the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce.

Currently there are no Hungarian investments in Malaysia.

Mr P. Lorincze, secretary general of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, said a seminar will be held in Kuala Lumpur in September to identify possible areas including infrastructure development, energy generation and road and rail transportation.

He said various options could be explored in the establishment of joint ventures. These could utilise raw materials available in Malaysia, process them and export them to third countries via the network developed by the Hungarian companies.

Another option was for the Malaysian partner to export the manufactured goods of the joint venture. Mr Lorincze said rubber gloves using Malaysia's Standard Malaysian Rubber (SMR) was mentioned.

There is also the possibility of manufacturing yarn for the Hungarian textiles industry. This could be re-exported to third countries or it could be consumed in Hungary.

Mr Lorincze said information and an understanding of the business environment in each other's countries is essential and in this respect the respective chambers of commerce could play an important role.

He added that the Hungarian chamber was also exploring the "non-traditional" areas and these he defined as the non-raw commodity areas.

Mr Lorincze said the possibility of obtaining electronic component supplies from Malaysia would be explored. He added that Malaysia being one of the largest exporters of electronic components could be an alternative source of supplies. Hungary now obtain these components from the US, Japan, West Germany and Singapore.

Another area is the manufacture of car components. He noted that not all components of Proton Saga were manufactured in Malaysia.

Mr Lorincze will lead the delegation of Hungarian businessmen from the chamber of commerce to Kuala Lumpur in September. The visit will coincide with the Hungarian week beginning September 10.

Meanwhile, president of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malaysia (NCCIM) Dr Nawawi Mat

Awin said the businessmen had a very successful series of meetings with their Hungarian counterparts.

This has resulted in several promising leads for possible joint ventures in natural rubber, timber and knockdown furniture, chemical imports and soft foods.

Dr Nawawi said while the two chambers recognised the fact that the balance of trade was in Malaysia's favour, bilateral trade should be expanded in volume and scope.

Mr Lorincze said Hungarian businessmen keen on greater direct trade had to resort to buying primary commodities from third countries because of problems.

Citing an example, he said Hungary buys tin in London due to the better trading and delivery system. He stressed that for greater trade the delivery and trading system has to be competitive.

He said in the case of natural rubber and palm oil the Hungarian purchases are direct from Malaysia.

Dr Nawawi assured the NCCIM would look into the delivery system for tin and extend assistance to Hungarian businessmen in Malaysia.

The secretary general of the NCCIM Encik Ramli Ku-shairi said the Malaysian businessmen have been able to find "some niches in Hungary which fit in well with the plans that they have".

He said some Malaysian businessmen have decided to return to Hungary for follow-up to explore the possibility of exporting their goods to Hungary.

/13046
CSO: 4200/838

TOUGH ANTIDRUG STAND BACKED BY MANY NATIONS

Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 30 Jun 87 p 1

[Article by Nazar Abdul]

[Text] Subang, 29 June--Prime Minister Mahabir Mohamad said that Malaysia in fact has many friends in the world, despite what is believed by certain groups.

According to the prime minister, this was proved by the unanimous support for his election as president of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and International Trafficking (ICDAIT), sponsored by the United Nations in Vienna.

The prime minister, speaking before a large gathering to welcome his return and that of his group at Kuala Lumpur International Airport on 29 June, said: "The candidacy of Malaysia as president of the conference was supported by the representatives of all 138 countries attending, including the large countries."

He said that, although at first there were those who charged that Malaysia was hated by many countries in the world because of its firm, fundamental stand against drug trafficking, the conference proved that in fact this basic policy has the support and admiration of many countries of the world.

Prime Minister Mahabir, who was greeted with shouts of "Long Live Mahabir, Long Live Malaysia" from those attending, declared: "In fact, we have many friends in our efforts to wage war against drugs, and this is a victory which we can be proud of."

He said that he was happy because the largest world conference on drug abuse supported the tough and firm action of this country against drug traffickers.

He said: "There are countries which wished to criticize Malaysia for adopting the death penalty against drug traffickers, but due to opposition from several group, this desire was not realized."

Regarding his election as president of the conference, Prime Minister Mahabir said that he was very pleased with the applause of world leaders when his election was announced.

He added: "Our friends throughout the world, including those from the countries of South America and the Caribbean, worked hard to ensure the victory of Malaysia."

He hoped that the support of the countries of the world will further strengthen the determination of the people of this country and of the world community, as well as increase substantially efforts to wipe out drug abuse.

5170/12951
CSO: 4213/0101

CALL FOR STABILIZATION OF PARTIES WITHIN BARISAN NASIONAL

Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 30 Jun 87 p 1

[Excerpts] Subang, 29 June--On 29 June Prime Minister Mahathir Monamad advised political parties belonging to the Barisan Nasional [National Front] to adopt the manner of election of the president of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and International Trafficking [Persidangan Antarabangsa Penyalahgunaan dan Pengedaran Dadah] as a guide to stabilize the respective parties.

The prime minister declared that the support for compromise shown by the Latin American countries, as a result of which Malaysia was elected without opposition as president of the conference, was a success for all of the countries participating. He said that it had also been proved how discussions and compromises can result in a close feeling of unity which finally brought the results hoped for by all parties.

The prime minister spoke to a large assembly of people and political party representatives who welcomed him home from Vienna, where he was elected without opposition as president of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and International Trafficking. Prime Minister Mahabir presided over the 10-day meeting, which was attended by representatives of 138 countries.

In the election of the president of the conference Malaysia initially faced a challenge from Bolivia. In any case, as a result of the support of friendly countries and a spirit of compromise, Bolivia finally withdrew its candidacy, and Malaysia was elected without opposition.

Prime Minister Mahabir emphasized that if the process of discussions and compromise in effect in Vienna were followed in Malaysia, he was convinced that the political parties would be more united and stable.

The prime minister added that the spirit of discussions and compromise, under which the conference was held and made a mark, without creating problems, was an example for the whole world. He said that Malaysian political parties, such as UMNO [United Malay National Organization], the MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association], the MIC [Malaysian Indian Congress], and other groups, should use the procedure of discussions and compromise as their guide and policy in stabilizing the respective political parties and then stabilizing the country.

He said that with this kind of stability the people and the government would be able to continue their efforts to achieve the noble goals of developing the country and the nation.

The prime minister also declared that the uncontested election of Malaysia as president of the conference also proved that this country has many friends throughout the world.

He said that this fact by itself contradicts those stories that Malaysia allegedly is not highly regarded at the international level. The support of the larger countries which was received from the beginning further and clearly showed that Malaysia had the support of these countries, although there are certain groups which charge that they do not support Malaysia. Before he made these remarks, the prime minister was given a Malay patriotic welcome.

5170/12951
CSO: 4213/0100

UMNO VP ANWAR CALLS FOR END OF FACTIONALISM

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Aug 87 p 2

[Text]

PENANG, Sat. — Umno members must put a stop to factionalism and dissension with the central leadership as this is detrimental to Umno and the Muslim community in the country, Umno vice-president Anwar Ibrahim said tonight.

He said dissent with the existing leadership should be put aside, adding that those who were dissatisfied with the party leadership should be invited for a discussion.

Speaking at a dinner organised by the Umno Bayan Baru division at the resthouse here, he said Umno had been weakened considerably by rifts among members and this had resulted in outsiders capitalising on the situation to raise various issues which threatened the Malay community in the country.

Encik Anwar, who is the newly-appointed State Umno liaison chief, said all Umno members should be conscious of issues being raised, including issues challenging the Government which were raised by component parties themselves, ever since the rift within Umno occurred after the party elections.

If Umno members continued to drag their feet and oppose the central leadership, Umno could lose its grip on the nation's Government and the future of the race and religion would be threatened.

He also called on intellectuals and religious leaders in the country to assist in repairing the rift within Umno.

These leaders could play a role in creating awareness of the results of disunity and assist in upholding the struggle of Umno, he added.

/13046
CSO: 4200/841

INCREASE IN SMALLHOLDERS RUBBER OUTPUT DUE TO BETTER PRICES

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 1 Aug 87 p 6

[Article by Lim Hock Chye]

[Text]

RUBBER production from the smallholders' sector in Malaysia is increasing in response to better prices and lack of employment opportunities in the urban areas.

According to the Malaysian Rubber Research and Development Board (MRRDB) latest Rubber Market Review, it said the greater demand for latex and latex-grade rubber, and an apparent reduction in output in some major natural rubber-producing countries, have contributed to the tightness of supply and the better prices.

The smallholders have turned abandoned areas into tapping. Coupled with this, the report said some urban workers have even switched to rubber tapping. However, production in the estate sector has shown a marginal increase.

In the first quarter of this year, Malaysia's NR output increased by 36,356 tonnes or some 10 per cent from 364,854 tonnes in the same quarter of last year.

On its exports for the first quarter this year, the report noted that Peninsular Malaysia exported a total of 388,719 tonnes of rubber during the period against 377,808 tonnes in the same quarter of last year.

This marks an increase of 10,911 tonnes or 2.9 per cent, the report said, adding that exports were up in January and February but down in March.

Of the 388,719 tonnes of rubber exported from Peninsular Malaysia during the first quarter of this year, 211,178 tonnes or 54.3 per cent was SMR, 102,669 tonnes or 26.4 per cent was RSS, 50,549 tonnes or 13.3 per cent was latex and 15,322 tonnes or 3.9 per cent consisted of other grades.

The report also said import increase of 102.3 per cent was noted

during the first two months of the year.

This was due to a 225 per cent increase in imports of general rubber goods; the single product responsible for the huge increase was rubber insulated-power transmission cables.

It added that the imports of these materials during the period were valued at about \$13.1 million, or 44 per cent of total imports of rubber goods. Imports of footwear and general rubber goods were also higher than in the previous year, 38.6 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively.

However, the increase in imports was more than offset by the continued increase in exports of all products, in particular latex products, which recorded a 73.5 per cent increase by comparison with the same period last year and amounted to \$55.9 million, or 54.2 per cent of the total export value.

Other major export products were tyres at \$16.7 million, general rubber goods at \$13.9 million and footwear at \$13.1 million. Overall, the surplus in the rubber goods trade for the period increased to \$73.5 million from \$56 million recorded for the same period last year.

On the world outlook, the report said estimated world natural rubber production in the first quarter this year showed a slight increase of 30,000 tonnes or 2.8 per cent over the output of the first quarter of 1986. Four countries — Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and India — showed increases in output, while Sri Lanka and the rest of the world showed declines.

The report also said that the world consumption of rubber continued to increase, albeit at a slow rate. Despite a slowdown in demand during

The last quarter of 1986, total rubber consumed during the year, at 18.61 million tonnes, was 1.6 per cent more than in 1985.

Domestically, rubber usage by Malaysia in the opening quarter of this year (18,766 tonnes) was marginally higher (1.7 per cent) than in the previous quarter, but showed quite a substantial increase (9.6 per cent) by comparison with the first quarter of 1986.

There was a noticeable slowdown in consumption in the tyre, general and industrial rubber goods sectors by comparison with the previous quarter's results, said the report.

/13046
CSO: 4200/838

STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME PROBLEM OF JOBLESS GRADUATES ANNOUNCED

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 3 Aug 87 p 16

[Text]

THE Government is to implement a four-pronged programme to help resolve the problem of graduate unemployment in the country, in which latest developments show they are depending less on the Government for employment.

Disclosing this yesterday, Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the programme involved changing their attitude from dependence on the public sector for jobs, encouraging them to venture into new areas like industries and petty trade, setting up a special body to overcome their difficulties and get the private sector involved in training and creating job opportunities for them.

These strategies would be carried out simultaneously and on a continuous basis, and in fact some were already being implemented, he said when opening the Malaysian Chamber of Youth Entrepreneurs general meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

Encik Anwar, who was representing Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba at the opening, said latest developments showed not all new graduates depended solely on the Government for a job.

They now had more resolve and will to accept new developments in the economy and job market, he added.

On blazing new paths, Encik Anwar suggested graduates study how countries like Korea and Taiwan emerged as strong economic powers because of their early focus on the small industries sector.

He said the move by graduates to embark on what were new fields for them including the agriculture sector had improved professionalism and incomes in these fields.

"In fact, there are even some who have rejected the public sector because of better earnings elsewhere, but not all have this sweet experience," he said, adding that a small group had a negative attitude.

He proposed that the chambers of commerce and industry set up a body to assist unemployed graduates venturing into petty trading.

He urged major corporations making good profits to come forward and provide training and jobs for graduates.

"Salary should not become an issue because a monthly pay of \$600 should be adequate considering that the allowance under the graduates temporary

employment scheme is \$400," he said.

He reminded the companies to give attention to the problem, saying it could jeopardise the country's political and economic situation if left unchecked.

On the new chamber, Encik Anwar said the Government had always encouraged and provided assistance for graduates in business and he announced a grant of \$10,000 for the chamber to begin operations.

He advised its members not to stray from its founding objective of consolidating a young entrepreneurial force in the country.

The Government would do its best to help young entrepreneurs as it did not want to see major sectors dominated by only select groups.

He reminded young entrepreneurs not to depend solely on public sector contracts, saying that "if this is the main criteria in selection of opportunities, then I feel it is best they look for other jobs."

He also urged members of the chamber not to discard noble traditional and cultural values once they made it big in business. — Bernama

/13046
CSO: 4200/841

AUSTRALIAN DAILY VIEWS SCOPE, IMPACT OF ROGERNOMICS

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 1-2 Aug 87 p 21

[Article by David Potts, economics editor: "How NZ Got the Freest Economy in the World"]

[Text]

NEW ZEALAND has embarked on a bold experiment, one which has never been completed anywhere else in the world.

In this economic laboratory, it is as much the International Monetary Fund (IMF), indeed the economics profession itself, that is being tested as New Zealand. To put it bluntly, if it doesn't work, then most of the Third World is heading for bankruptcy.

We tend to think of New Zealand as the poor relation, a condescending attitude that is readily returned. But privately, most New Zealand economists, and even senior government officials, think of it as a Third World country.

One businessman quotes a Chilean economist to prove a point. Apart from its political stability the only difference with the Third World is that New Zealand has an established infrastructure, albeit antiquated.

But only in New Zealand would the Opposition threaten to invite the IMF in to look at the books and the Government get up to open the door. And only in the case of New Zealand would the IMF think twice about coming. This is not because the country is an economic basket case, but because if it becomes one the IMF is going to look awfully silly.

Although New Zealand isn't officially a patient, it has still swallowed the medicine prescribed by the IMF for heavily indebted developing countries in one gulp.

In fact, the IMF has quietly told government officials that it thinks New Zealand has overdosed on the experiment, providing a handy excuse for itself if it doesn't work.

Experiment is probably too soft a word. But how do you describe a policy that almost overnight turns a country's economy on its head, that has taken the country from having what was virtually an economic dictatorship of rules and regulations to the freest economy in the world, that is dividing New Zealand by pitting country against city, youth against age, lenders against borrowers, financiers against producers and business against unions?

So New Zealanders have invented a word for it - Rogernomics, named after its creator and the Minister for Finance, Mr Roger Douglas.

Rogernomics is like Maggienomics except it goes three times further. In many ways it is even to the right of Dr Milton Friedman, the monetarist guru. Like Maggienomics, Rogernomics wants to get rid of inflation by reducing government spending and tightening the money supply.

"But it departs from Maggieconomics and monetarism by not having a target for the rate of growth in the money supply. Its role in the economic affairs of the country is merely to keep the money supply "firm". Under Rogernomics, all the Government does is govern.

But even more remarkable than a Labour Government which has been in power barely four years going further than the arch Tory Maggie Thatcher in cutting the size of government - to the point where the Budget is in surplus - is the fact that it came from so far behind to do it.

Under the previous Muldoon government just about everything was regulated: wages, interest rates, the dollar. - even business was told where it could and couldn't invest. A horrified Economist magazine sneered at the time that the Muldoon response to inflation was to ban it.

It was the closest a Western democracy since World War II had ever come to being a dictatorship. Today New Zealand is the closest a Western democracy has ever come to being a model economy.

It can't be too long before they start bargain fly-and-drive weekends to New Zealand for curious economists. In fact, New Zealand has a desperate shortage of them. Rogernomics has so bamboozled the local economists that one of them even accuses the Government of washing its hands of running the place.

It is not as far-fetched as it sounds. New Zealand has the cleanest dollar float in the world. Yet everyone from the Prime Minister down thinks the dollar is overvalued, which it is. In real terms the NZ dollar is worth what it was in 1970, despite the savage downturn in the prices of every one of its exports since then.

To appreciate this, just imagine what our manufacturers and farmers would be saying if the dollar was back at \$US1.40. Yet the New Zealand Government won't touch it.

It lets interest rates in the money market soar past 20 per cent, which is why the

dollar is so high, and does nothing. It watches wage negotiations and stays aloof. It watches industries go to the wall and farmers go broke. Still it does nothing. Most of the time it doesn't even say anything.

This should not be mistaken for idleness. The Government has been busy getting its own house in order. It introduced the 10 per cent goods and services tax and has been selling shares in what we would call semi-government authorities, although they include businesses such as the Bank of New Zealand, which is like the Commonwealth.

Lately a new strain of Rogernomics has been developed - the lethal quangocide - or elimination of quasi-autonomous non-government organisations. Quangos are not a native of New Zealand, and are known to thrive in any climate.

The New Zealand Government, however, has set up a central register so it can keep track of the species and has, in any case, decided a quango will automatically be exterminated after five years.

So far the toll includes four rent appeal boards, the Wheat Board, the Industrial Property Advisory Committee, the Tobacco Growing Industry Board and the Fluoridation Advisory Committee.

Even if the IMF did take the risk and come to New Zealand, it would face the same problem that bedevils the Opposition and local economists: it is hard to know exactly what shape the economy is in because the official statistics are so sketchy.

This is not entirely the fault of the Lange Government. Indeed, the statistics office was allowed to be run down under Muldoon because he already knew what he wanted to do and so he didn't need any figures.

Thanks to the entire deregulation of the financial system and the backlash from when it was the most regulated in the Western world, the statistics measuring the money supply are next to useless.

Admittedly the fact that Rogernomics puts so much store in controlling the money supply and no one, including the Government, knows whether it is succeeding makes it hard for the Opposition or anyone else to criticise it.

Even so, in some areas New Zealand is ahead of Australia. While the Budget is in surplus by \$NZ379 million (\$321 million) if calculated in the Australian way, the Government has calculated a new figure in line with IMF practice which makes it a deficit of \$NZ1271 million, or about 2 per cent of GDP.

This difference comes from taking out the proceeds of asset sales and the sale of shares in Petrocorp and NZ Steel. Next year it is forecast to be \$NZ794 million, or just over 1 per cent of GDP.

Despite the paucity of statistics in New Zealand, the Reserve Bank issues quarterly forecasts.

There is a frankness lacking in its Australian relative. Its latest press release admits "revenues are expected to increase in line with inflation, with falls in interest receipts roughly offsetting higher tax revenues due to fiscal drag".

It is nice to know that not even Rogernomics is perfect. According to the Reserve Bank, in the year to March 1989, the New Zealand economy will grow by 2 per cent. Private sector forecasters disagree with each other so much they shed little light. And in the March quarter the economy fooled everyone by growing 1.2 per cent.

Even so, unless interest rates fall it seems likely things will get worse before they get better. Unemployment is officially 6.3 per cent, but is really about 9 per cent when you take into account the job creation and training schemes. It may be higher still - the figures are not adjusted to take into account seasonal variations such as fruit picking.

The annual inflation rate is dangerously close to 20 per cent, but half of this is due to the one-off effect of the

goods and services tax which should soon disappear. And it is not as bad as it seems because New Zealanders were given hefty tax cuts (the top marginal income tax rate is now 48 per cent) on the day it was introduced.

In fact people don't seem to mind. With the exception of farmers they accept record prices, interest rates and unemployment and have even gone on a spending spree.

Ironically, the main reason for the strong retail sales seems to have been the goods and services tax itself. New Zealanders borrowed to the hilt to buy before prices rose.

But, thanks to Rogernomics, the New Zealand sharemarket has been booming. Because there is no capital gains tax - and the Government says it won't introduce one while inflation is high - for many this has been like winning the lottery.

But now that the goods and services tax has been introduced, and the sharemarket has become much shakier, this growth in consumer spending is likely to falter.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the economy has been the way the balance of payments has improved, despite the relatively strong dollar. For the first time in four years, New Zealand has a trade surplus.

Its main exports are still meat, wool, skins and timber, but it is not bad going considering how badly the terms of trade have moved, and the fact that in real terms the dollar is back where it was in 1970. In 1986-87, exports rose 14.6 per cent and imports by only 2.9 per cent.

The other balance of payments figures have to be taken with a grain of salt. Even so, the Reserve Bank is forecasting a current account deficit of \$NZ1455 million in the year to March 1989, or only 2.3 per cent of GDP, which is a third the size of ours and a third what it was three years ago.

No one is quite sure how much foreign debt New Zealand owes, but proportionately it is a lot more than we

do. Worse still, most of New Zealand's debt was run up by the Government, unlike ours. But, unlike us, New Zealand is starting to pay it off.

The most remarkable change of all can't be measured by statistics, which is probably just as well because no one is trying anyway. It is the change in attitude in the country.

According to the chairman of New Zealand's biggest employer group, the Business Roundtable, Sir Ron Trotter — who is also chairman and chief executive of Fletcher Challenge, the fifth biggest company listed on the stock exchange in Australia by capitalisation — business now spends all its time on business, where once it devoted most of its energies to lobbying government for a favour.

Although it is not a view unanimously shared by all employers, he praises the Government for reducing industry protection. In New Zealand, government favours are out, with the exception of the trade unions, but then you have to understand this is a Labour Government.

Even then, the Lange Government has moved much further than the Hawke Government. The trick seems to be to go three steps forward and two backward.

It took three forward when it opted out of wage negotiations altogether, leaving them to the unions and employers to fight over. Then it took two backward when it made unionism compulsory and banned competing unions in the same trade.

There has also been a sideways step: a union must now have at least 1000 members. This is designed to reduce the number of unions and so reduce the number of demarcation disputes. But employers argue that the Government won't get the enterprise bargaining it wants if the union isn't big enough to have 1000 members.

New Zealand now has a

hybrid industrial relations system not unlike the one the Liberal Party proposes in Australia. Employers can "opt out" of centralised wage fixing, but there is still a minimum award that must be complied with, irrespective of the profitability of the company or where it is located.

Yet despite the reservations they have about the Government clearing out but leaving some awkward rules behind, employers are unashamedly backing the Labour Party. Privately, and perhaps not unrealistically, they expect Labour to renege on its promises to the unions.

In fact, with the notable exception of compulsory unionism, the Government has ridden roughshod over union objections to deregulation, the goods and services tax and free trade. It has tended to keep the unions happy by delivering what they want on foreign policy.

For their part, the unions haven't much choice but to back Labour or be neutral because the Nationals' policy is much more draconian. For that matter, the same is true of the business community while Sir Robert Muldoon still stalks the National Party.

The next test for the Government will be the confrontation between the unions and employers, which is something of an irony considering it refuses to take part.

The wage round begins immediately after the election and if Rogernomics has been as successful as the business community believes, it should produce rises of less than the expected inflation rate of 8 per cent by March next year.

The question is whether they fully understand that they have to take the responsibility for their decisions on wages.

It is one thing setting the kiwi free, another teaching it how to fly.

MANGLAPUS FAVORS SOUTHEAST ASIA NEUTRALITY

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 20 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Text]

"THE Philippines is indefensible," said Sen. Raul S. Manglapus, chairman of the Senate committee on national defense, when asked to assess the defense capabilities and security status of the country.

According to him, "Filipinos must not therefore fight the war of the Great Powers; we must neutralize; we must ask Soviet Russia, the United States and other powers in the region to guarantee that neutrality; and now is the right time to move."

Soviet Russia has urged the US to pull out its bases in the region. And Manglapus has referred obliquely to the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, who said: "If the US gives up its military presence in say, the Philippines, we would not leave this step unanswered."

In the incoming Congress, Manglapus said, he would use the floor of the Senate to articulate this vision of neutralization, not only for the Philippines but also for the whole of Southeast Asia.

Together with his colleagues of similar persuasion and frame of mind, he said, he intends to take "actual legislative steps to formulate a position on this security scheme" for the country.

And having formulated such a position, he said, "the Philippines must pursue neutralization."

It is very difficult to be neutral simply by saying so unilaterally, considering the American bases at Subic Bay and Clark Field and the Russian presence in Vietnam.

But Manglapus suggested that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations could be a "powerful mover" and "catalyst" for neutralization.

For the Philippine government, he said "it is a morally and legally strong position because neutralization is there already in the ASEAN books."

He points to the Kuala Lumpur ASEAN Summit declaration of 1977, where its member countries formulated the concept of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality for the region.

The "neutralization" declaration, Manglapus said, was basically designed to prevent interference in the internal affairs of the region by outside powers.

He deplored the fact that after signing the pact, the ASEAN leaders forgot it. "Everybody forgot it. Nobody made any move to negotiate with the powers" on the neutrality of the region. The Philippine Senate, he said, can now take the initiative.

But to Manglapus, the neutralization of the region is "a long-range question" for the country. The short-range question for the Philippine leadership concerns the American bases, which are due for renegotiation very soon, he said. "What are we going to do with the bases," he said.

The senator presented an innovative proposal to the Philippines' neighbors: "They must take joint political responsibility with us, for these bases," Manglapus said.

NEGROS OIC AGRARIAN REFORM PLAN; NDF SUPPORT NOTED

Quezon City NATIONAL MIDWEEK in English 22 Jul 87 pp 5-7

[Interview with Daniel Lacson, Negros Occidental officer-in-charge, by Sophie Bodegon: "Opposing a 'Sweeping Program' for Negros"]

[Text]

The draft Executive Order of President Aquino decreeing a comprehensive land reform program has caused emotions to run high. In troubled Negros Occidental, home to many a sugar baron — disenfranchised or not — the threat of presidential approval has been enough to get a group of sugar planters to plan "extreme measures" — including rebellion.

Last year, in the wake of a decade of plunging world sugar prices, the consequent decrease in production and eventually the cries of hunger, Negros Occidental-Governor Daniel Lacson came up with a formula for land re-distribution which even the leftist National Democratic Front called "a positive step."

Lacson has reiterated what he describes as a carefully prepared, objective proposal the 60-30-10 scheme now allegedly being adopted by more and more landowners and sugar workers as a "homemade compromise to sweeping land reform." In an animated interview with reporters, including Sophie Bodegon of

Philippine News & Features, Lacson cautioned against the implementation of CARP's Program C which provides for land reform on landed estates starting 1989.

Lacson argued for "flexible modes" of compliance to allow voluntary partnership arrangements and the creation of agro-industrial estates.

How serious is the so-called Movement for Independence (MIN) launched by planters in Negros? Will it succeed?

The Movement for Independence is one of the offshoots of the announcement of a land reform program. The planters became frantic because they thought it would be signed by the President right away.

We have held dialogues and consultations with planters and labor to determine whether they still supported the 60-30-10 proposal. This week, both the labor sector and the landed class, through their officers, expressed support for the proposal.

(The militant National Federation of Sugar Workers confirmed its agreement, on condition that the formula was only a transitory move to full land reform.)

They know that at this time, it would not be wise to implement a drastic land reform program. We are not ready financially, we are not ready culturally, and we cannot displace any one sector.

This is why we must come out with a centrist, common-ground formula that will achieve the same purposes the Cabinet wants under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Will this planters' movement continue to be a threat?

It will continue to be a threat because of the perception that this government will confiscate planters' lands. I think it is a legitimate expression of dissatisfaction that should be heard. At this point, however, I don't think it is that serious.

The landowners are against a sweeping program, but not all the people in Negros are members of MIN. Neither are all the people of Negros against land reform. There are those who say they are willing to part with their lands if they are paid a just price in cash. About 50 percent were willing to do this.

But I am not in a position to determine the extent to which they are armed. I do not even know their members. But there are spokesmen who complain that they have no choice but to fight back and the only way to do this is to be as "radical" as some of the radicals, like Misuari and Balweg.

If we are not careful with what we are doing, we might be leading this country — and not Negros only — to a civil war.

When people start saying they are ready to fight the government, I think we should listen to them. Where did the NPA start? From a group of 20-50 guys? That is why we are now trying to defuse it, rather than fight it.

Your 60-30-10 proposal has been called a palliative.

I am willing to debate that. It is basically a 60-40 arrangement. On land ownership, based on the loans and the land valuations, 60 percent of the land will be retained by the landowners and 40 percent will go to labor. Going from zero to 40 is a big jump. It will have an impact on the labor sector immediately.

The formula provides 10 percent of the land for home lots because we want the laborers to have their own lots for their homes and to be taught how to be self-sufficient in vegetables and fruits. The other options come from the 60 percent, if they wish to continue working for the landowner, or the 30 percent, which will be used by a co-operative of the laborers during the off-season.

The problem with sugar is that it is seasonal and of low value. We will break the seasonality with this formula. The 60 percent for sugar will provide enough land to produce what the market can absorb.

Yet we must go easy on Program C (the CARP provision for land reform on landed estates under labor administration and tenanted non-rice and non-corn lands). Look at the Dacong cogon Mill in Negros. it started with about 16,000 hectares of sugar lands owned by small farmers in a cooperative. Now it is down to only 4,000 and it owes the banks a lot.

Dacong cogon might be a microcosm of what can happen nationwide if you divide land into small parcels. Of course, there are other factors.

What has President Aquino said about the proposal?

She does not disagree with the proposal. I hope she signs it into law because it is approved by the majority of the people in Negros, even labor. What Negros is saying

is: Give us a chance to implement our own program.

At this point, this is the formula that has met with the least resistance.

Meanwhile, Congress should be left to discuss Program C, the retention limits, the financing program. The President can start directing government agencies to allocate budgets for land reform in sequestered lands and public domain and other lands. For this, an Executive Order is needed.

When people ask the President to sign the entire CARP proposal, it appears as if Congress cannot be trusted.

Isn't that what our experience tells us?

Then why did we vote for the congressmen if we don't have trust and confidence in them?

Why should a few people in Manila insist on their formula? Why not leave Negros land reform to Negrenses?

We are saying that the formula must be tried first. If it does not work, we are willing to go for the balance of 50 percent. But if it works, why insist on a sweeping program?

In the meantime, we have bought time for the landed class, for government and labor. The landed class, if it has no options, will fight back, creating problems. Government also needs time, it has no resources and we might fail because we do not have these resources. Labor also has to be educated into making decisions farmers should make.

But don't planters have a long record of not paying their workers decent wages? The landowners profited much in the past but didn't invest in anything productive.

How many percent are exploiters? You better talk to more planters. We have labor laws. Put them in jail if they do not pay decent wages.

We have condemned members of the landed class for their mistakes in the past, but we are asking them now: Can you be a partner in development?

How do the agro-industrial enterprises fit into your proposal?

Banks have frozen loans because of the insecurity regarding CARP. This has stunted the development of high-value crops — prawns, ramie, mangoes — for diversification. We propose the inclusion of a provision where owners can opt for the declaration of agro-industrial sites free from land reform.

Land in an agro-industrial enterprise is only a fraction of the total investment. Development and operating capital is easily five to seven times the value of the land. Once these ventures are registered, they will have to pay industrial wages. This is what will grab the laborers.

This will also spur landowners to move into high value crops, which are needed in our country today. We need to produce high value crops side by side with subsistence crops.

The important question here is how much do the employer and the laborer earn? Suppose a farm laborer earns ₱60 but on an agro-industrial estate, he earns ₱120, should we still insist on putting that piece of land under reform simply because it happens to be in the agricultural sector?

Won't this encourage people to go for high value export crops instead of subsistence crops?

That's what we want. If you go into high value crops, you bring in investment and higher paying jobs. If they plant subsistence crops, they will never be able to pay well.

It will also provide processing in Negros. In short, we will not stay agricultural.

We cannot survive on land alone. There are 267,000 hectares of land in Negros, there are 300,000 workers. Tell me, how many hectares will each worker get? Who survives on .8 hectare?

The solution is 60-30-10. Give them livelihood programs, and move into industrialization. We have started industrialization in Negros with stuffed toys and garments. And it is giving people better pay than farm work. Even teachers want to stop teaching to go into business.

See, it doesn't have to be only one formula. We cannot be simplistic.

According to Mahar Mangahas, a technical consultant to the Cabinet panel on land reform, it will be difficult to administer a different land reform program for each special case.

He is entitled to his own opinion. And we are entitled to ours. And we are the 2.2 million people of Negros crying for attention. Give us a chance to put our program to work. Five years... after that, put me in jail.

What we are trying to do is steer Negros to the middle, to avoid a confrontation.

If those guys in the World Bank are willing to roll up their sleeves and to risk their lives here when the revolution comes fine. But if they want to stay in Washington, and leave us to fight each other here, I will not listen to them.

What do you say about the report of a fact-finding team led by former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark that CIA tactics are being employed in Negros? Their report includes a three-page section on Negros and the vigilante groups there.

The only thing I know about this comes from the papers and local reports. As governor, I do not know whether vigilante groups have been given official sanction. Local Governments Secretary Jaime Ferrer says that this is good and should be encouraged. Defense Secretary Illeto has said the same thing.

I agree. Citizens should defend themselves if they feel they are being threatened by insurgents. But this should not be for purely anti-insurgency operations. This should also mean citizens' involvement in running the affairs of community and government, so long as it does not go against the law. **M**

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DIVERSE ACTIVISTS ENDORSE ALTERNATIVE LAND REFORM PROPOSAL

Quezon City NATIONAL MIDWEEK in English 22 Jul 87 pp 14-17

[Article by Melanie Manlogon: "A 'People's Proposal' for Land Reform"]

[Text]

It was a rare coming together, to say the least, as if political forces that perpetually clashed had finally decided to converge. There was Luis Taruc, Huk supremo at another historical juncture, aging now and just out of his sickbed for the gathering, he said. There were representatives from cause-oriented groups Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN), Bansang Nagkaisa sa Diwa at Layunin (BANDILA) and Bukluran sa Ikaunlad ng Sosyalistang Isip at Gawa (BISIG); former senators and former constitutional commissioners; human rights activists, development workers, groups supporting national minorities, academics and farmers from all over the country. They all came to the "Special Forum on a People's Proposal for the National Agrarian Reform Program" to endorse a draft proposal prepared by the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation (RMAF).

The proposal, said RMAF chairman Dioscoro Umali, is significant in that, unlike previous land reform programs in the country, it "will change the structure of political and economic power." The "people's proposal," Umali added, is "necessary" since land reform based

on the constitutional provisions alone would only be "token reform."

Presented last June 19, the proposal is the result of several consultations made by the RMAF, in collaboration with the Asian Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition (ANGOC), of which Umali is also head, with farmers' and fishermen's organizations as well as non-governmental organizations engaged in rural development work. It presents recommendations on national policy, special provisions for the new crop or land types to be reformed, and the administrative structure and mechanisms needed for the proposal to be efficiently implemented.

The proposal states that for a national land reform program to be comprehensive, it must include "all agricultural lands regardless of crop type and form of ownership." To be placed under reform are fish, prawn, and other aquaculture farm holdings, unoccupied arable public lands, and public lands being leased by the government for logging, mining, pasture and other economic activities. The proposal aims to bring more of the country's cultivated lands — estimated at 9,700,000 hectares in 1980 — under agrarian reform, "not only

to attempt to improve the tiller-to-land ratio (one worker to .97 hectares), but more importantly, to provide a basic resource of production to as many of our poor households as are without employment or a decent means of income and livelihood."

It calls for national policy to encourage a zero retention limit in order to do away with absentee farming and absentee landlords. However, it will consider recommendations of people's agrarian reform councils for "meritorious retention limits" in the case, for example, of small landowners who have no other source of income. This, the proposal notes, "will encourage small landowners, particularly those not tilling the land, to till the land themselves, or be divested of their landholdings through a fair compensation package . . . This is to prevent a slide in the income and economic conditions of small owners who form part of the middle class and which class the agrarian reform program itself should aim to build and uphold."

Small landholders, however, who wish to retain their holdings "may be allowed to keep only the area that they themselves can feasibly work with their family members." The size of this allowable area, according to the proposal, maybe "just slightly higher" than the existing tiller-to-land ratio of one worker to one or two hectares.

This worker-hectare ratio may be used, the proposal states, to guide the distribution of land as individual household holdings or as collectives.

With regard to landlord compensation, the RMAF proposal states: "If land reform is to be effective as a measure for transferring wealth therefore, the full compensation of landlords must be

ruled out. Since most landowning families have recouped their investments on the land and gained from the earlier operations of their farms, it is time to allow others use and ownership of the land on moral grounds. Considering further that the majority of current tiller-families have worked the land for generations, they would have more than paid for the land through their labor by this time."

A "selective compensation" scheme that is favorable to small owners will however be devised in order to maintain "medium economic standing." In the case of bigger landlords who have various income sources and investments, "it does not seem right to continue compensating them except again on a graduated or selective basis, like allowing them to recoup earnings on recently and legally purchased lands, or alternatively allowing them reasonable retention time to shift to other forms of investments." The graduated scheme however sets these general guidelines for compensation: small holders, compensation based on fair market value of the land; medium holders, based on tax declaration value of the land; big landlords, generally no compensation.

"The land reform program," the document goes on, "must not be based on a pleasing compensation package for the more prosperous landlords but on an appeal to their humaneness and sense of equity and fairness."

The creation of independent People's Agrarian Reform Councils (PARCs) in the countryside to formulate the specifics of land reform implementation is another provision of the proposal. Membership in these councils will be limited to the "non-landowning class" and will exclude local government officials, "many of whom are historically beholden to the local landlords."

These councils, it is noted, will build on the "pioneering efforts" of "Huk veterans" and the Federation of Free Farmers as well as on the work of other farmers' and fishermen's organizations like the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

In contrast to existing plans of implementing land reform according to crop and ownership classification, the proposal stresses the need to divide the reform program into phases or stages based on the "urgency of the people's clamor for land and their readiness to work the land regardless of crop and ownership types." The recommended phases and coverages are, to wit:

First Phase: Arable public lands and selected private abandoned and idle lands with organized settlements; private landholding with organized workers; private holdings voluntarily offered by their owners for land reform; sequestered and foreclosed properties.

Second Phase: Private landholdings which were originally unorganized, ranging from large estates to medium and small landholdings.

Third Phase: The "prudent" distribution of public lands shown to be suitable for cultivation, with special attention to maintaining water reserves and to environmental protection.

Since mere distribution of land does not ensure efficient farm production, the proposal directs attention to support services which have to be provided — infrastructure development and public works projects for new settlements under the land reform program; price guarantees for agricultural produce; credit to farmers' groups; sufficient numbers of agricultural technicians assigned to farmers' organizations; investing in research for the development and diffusion of low-cost and ecologically sound farm inputs.

To prevent preemptive action against land reform by landed interests, the proposal has included a safeguard. This is an Executive Order freezing all land sales, grants and transactions as of the date of the declaration of the national agrarian reform policy.

The proposal, drafted after consultations with 16 non-governmental organizations and cause-oriented groups, contains provisions for special land reform sectors as well. These sectors include lands traditionally excluded from earlier land reform measures such as those held by transnational corporations, aquaculture holdings, ancestral lands and logging and mining concessions.

As envisioned, lands held by transnational corporations will revert back to Filipino control, with ownership to be transferred to direct producers like farmworkers and tenants. Government will also be prevented from leasing new areas to transnational corporations. Measures to protect workers' interests such as just wages, homelots, mechanisms for participation in the management of the corporation and the setting aside of at least 5 percent of the company's gross income as the workers' share, will be sought while the transnational corporation is being processed for eventual transfer to Filipino ownership.

Existing fishery laws are to be revised to correct the bias favoring commercial, big capital and foreign operators over small fishermen. For example, the seven-kilometer municipal jurisdiction limit will be extended to 15 kilometers from the shore to allow small fishermen and fishing communities use of more marine stocks, and small fishermen will be granted exclusive access to inland water bodies.

The RMAF draft proposal also extends the definition of ancestral lands not only to the settlements of national minorities but also to their burial grounds and forest, pasture and farming lands. Laws declaring lands with an 18-degree slope as public lands will also be repealed. In addition, indigenous systems of land ownership will be recognized and protected.

These recommendations are in response to the tribal Filipinos' demand for regional autonomy and self-determination.

In view of the rapidly deteriorating state of Philippine forests, the proposal underscores the need for a national agrarian reform policy that will ensure "judicious" logging and mining operations for the duration of their leases.

For the efficient and successful implementation of land reform, the draft proposal declares that reforms in "traditional government bodies and strategies" are urgent and indispensable. In this regard, it recommends the formation of a Presidential Co-ordinating Council for Agrarian

Reform and Rural Development (PCCARRD) — "to ensure integration and complementarity among the various programs and projects on agrarian reform of different departments as well as to provide for the mobilization of short-term and long-term foreign aid programs." Non-governmental organizations will also be harnessed to assist in the setting up of farmers' organizations and serve as a link between these organizations and the PCCARRD.

Umag, who was once under-secretary of agriculture, former dean of the UP Los Banos, assistant director-general of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and a consultant to the International Rice Research Institute, says that land reform faces many obstacles, the foremost being "sabotage by opponents of land reform." However, he is confident that "a united push" from peasants and concerned sectors will go a long way and that agrarian reform, which is "of historical urgency," is "possible if there is the political will from below." **[M]**

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PHILIPPINES

DAILY REPORTS ATROCITIES BY NEW VIGILANTES IN LEYTE

Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 17 Jul 87 pp 1, 10

[Article by Nimfa Rueda]

[Text]

TWO peasant women, one of them eight months pregnant, were beheaded in separate incidents by "Walang Patawid" (No Mercy), a new vigilante group in Burauen, Leyte.

According to reports reaching the National Alliance of Peasant Women (Amihan) in Manila yesterday, the vigilante group, which has been working closely with the "Tatad," slashed open the abdomen of Teresita Udtuhan, 30, and took out the 8-month old fetus.

Udtuhan and the other victim, identified as Marilyn Negro, 38, were both members of a local women's group affiliated with Amihan.

Witnesses reportedly identified the main suspect

as one Bennie Antivo, the acknowledged vigilante chief in Burauen.

Antivo, according to a separate report by the Task Force Detainees (TFD) was also behind the salvaging of a rural church worker identified as Editha Quesaba, 40, also in Burauen.

The TFD report said Quesaba was stabbed twenty-nine times, mostly on her private parts barely two weeks before the slaying of Negro and Udtuhan.

The incidents and other reported abuses by the vigilantes have prompted some fifty families from three barangays in Burauen to evacuate to safer grounds, according to TFD officials.

The TFD also reported that a "Tatad" member in Abuyog, Leyte, beheaded a peasant activist, identified as Vic Valle, of the local Kilusang Mambubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

TFD said the suspect one Felipe Alvero, brought the head of Valle to the town mayor in exchange for a reward of P5,000.

In a recent symposium on the issue of vigilante groups, local governments secretary Jaime Ferrer reportedly asked for the name of the said mayor after a human rights worker related the incident.

Meanwhile, the "Alsa Masa" and "Fuerza Masa" in Palale, MacArthur, Leyte, have been harassing residents there who openly supported Partido ng Bayan congressional candidate Rev. Frank Ugsad, another TFD report said.

One PNB supporter, Emilio Morales, 27, was killed June 27 while another identified as Alfredo Aler, 27, was wounded when they were attacked by the vigilantes in separate incidents.

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THAILAND

MP SUPHATRA ATTENDS ANTINUCLEAR WEAPONS MEETING

2070258a Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 16 Jun 87 pp 11, 14

[Unattributed report: "Thai MP Attends Anti-Nuclear War Meeting"]

[Text] A female MP attended a meeting of the "World Female MPs for Peace" in Mexico. She stressed that only the women's forces can bring about peace in the world.

MP Suphatra Kesonsuk flew to Mexico to attend a meeting of the World Female MPs for Peace held on 15 and 16 June. Female MPs from around the world are attending this meeting. The president of Mexico officiated at the opening of the conference.

Before leaving for the meeting, Suphatra said that this meeting will focus on cooperation among the women's forces of the world for peace, nuclear disarmament, and national development instead of arms development. The MPs from each country will submit the conference policy to their governments.

The Thai MP also stated that some of the interesting topics to be discussed at this meeting include the stockpiling of nuclear weapons by the great powers, particularly the United States and the Soviet Union, the attempt to gain power in space, the testing of nuclear and chemical weapons, and the attempt by other countries to build nuclear weapons.

Those at the meeting will also discuss the role of female MPs with respect to world peace. This will be discussed from their position as women and as politicians who are responsible for problems concerning peace. This includes the problems between the rich countries and the poor countries, the spread of military power in the world, including both the sale and purchase of weapons, and the economic and arms crises. The expansion of military forces and weapons, which depends on the economy, will be compared with the situation in the various countries. They will also compare the expansion of the military forces with the expansion of the social forces and discuss which is more important, military aid or aid for national development. They will also discuss the relationship between debt and weapons in various countries.

This meeting will point out the need to reduce weapons in the interests of development. It will focus on the benefits of using the funds available to

develop the country instead of just increasing the number of weapons. Besides this, the delegates will analyze limiting the number of weapons in each country based on what is suitable for each country, shifting from accumulating weapons to building industries for national development, and the role of the people in demanding an arms reduction. In discussing these matters, they will also focus on safety and on establishing a fund for national development. They will point out the responsibilities that the countries that produce nuclear weapons have with respect to the economies and societies of the world's developing countries.

In conclusion, MP Suphatra said that this meeting will put forth principles that female MPs throughout the world can use in carrying on activities for peace in 1988 and 1989. This includes member countries on the financial front.

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THAILAND

KHMER ROUGE SUSPECTED IN BURIRAM ROBBERIES

42070258b Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 29 Jun 87 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Khmer Rouge Betray, Rob Thai"]

[Text] Police Sublieutenant Somkhit Chan-akson, the officer on duty at the Buriram provincial police station in Lahan Sai District, was informed that Cambodian bandits had committed a robbery at 2300 hours on 27 June at the Sichum potato field, No 61, Group 12, Ban Khok Mai, Samrong Subdistrict, Lahan Sai District. Thus, together with Police Lt Col Praphan Chamnin-ok, the inspector for suppression, Police Maj Prasan Prasansak, the inspector for investigation, and a number of policemen, he went there to investigate. They found Mr Narin Chungthanasombun, age 46, the owner of the potato field, who had been beaten unconscious, and his wife, Mrs Chun, who had been hit in the face. Both were taken to the Lahan Sai hospital for treatment.

Later on, officials questioned Mr Narin and Mrs Chun and learned that just prior to the robbery, they had been inside their house watching television. Ten Cambodian bandits dressed in black clothes and armed with AK and M-16 rifles, RPGs, and pistols entered their house and demanded that they tell them where their valuables were hidden. But Mr Narin and Mrs Chun resisted and so the bandits hit Mr Narin with the butts of their rifles and kicked him unconscious. They hit Mrs Chun in the face with their pistols. She could not stand being hit any more and so she told them where the valuables were hidden. The bandits stole a diamond ring, a gold necklace weighing 4 baht [1 baht equals 15 grams], 4,000 baht in cash, and 20 bottles of foreign liquor. Altogether, the items were worth approximately 100,000 baht. The bandits then shot out all four of the tires on Mr Narin's pickup truck, license No M-0280 Buriram, and smashed the windshield. They also searched the inside of the truck but did not find anything. They then fled toward the Cambodian border 25 km away. The victims also disclosed that they had been robbed by Cambodian bandits once before in April. They did not lose much that time, and they were afraid of problems arising and so they did not report the robbery. As a result, the Cambodian bandits decided to rob them again.

After that, police officials of the Special Action Unit in Lahan Sai District and 240 thanan phran irregulars and Border Patrol policemen pursued the bandits. But there have been no further reports.

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THAILAND

HOUSE MOOTS SOLUTIONS TO MALAYSIA BORDER PROBLEMS

42070258c Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 28 Jun 87 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed report: "Suggestion for Solving Border Intrusions, Build Road Along Barrier"]

[Excerpt] On the morning of 27 June, Mr Ophat Phonsilapa, the deputy chairman of the House Administrative Affairs Subcommittee, and four other members of this subcommittee made a trip to study the situation and solve the problems concerning Malaysia building a border wall inside Thai territory. They were accompanied by Maj Gen Chusak Sanyaphaet, the head of the Malaysian-Border Security Office, Supreme Command Headquarters, Mr Niwat Phibun, the governor of Yala Province, Mr Direk Thungfang, the district officer in Betong District, and officials from Border Patrol Police Precinct 445.

After inspecting the area, the subcommittee members met with various officials. Following that, Mr Ophat stated that from the discussions, it was learned that there are 13 points between Km posts 51 and 54 where the wall intruded 5-8 meters into Thai territory. The Malaysian officials were aware of this and informed Thailand in order to correct this. The subcommittee proposed that a joint committee be established to survey the area and solve this problem, because this wall is 24 km long.

Mr Ophat revealed that it was also learned that Thailand should build a road along the border, because Malaysia has built a wall along the border. Thailand should do this for safety and security reasons.

Mr Chaturon Khotsi, the subcommittee secretary, said that the conclusion reached by the subcommittee is that a work committee should be established. This should be composed of officials from the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the military. It should operate in this area in order to handle the problems that arise during the construction of the wall and demarcate the border clearly. The conclusions reached by the subcommittee will be submitted to parliament for further action by the government. However, Malaysia has already torn down certain sections of the wall that intruded into Thai territory.

Maj Gen Chusak said that this intrusion affected approximately 1,067 square meters of Thai territory. The border here was originally demarcated during the

time of King Rama V. At that time, an agreement was reached between Thailand and England. The border was demarcated in 1909. The border was not demarcated very carefully, and some border markers were 30-40 km apart. The exact location of the border was unclear.

Maj Gen Chusak said that in 1973, a new border demarcation committee was formed, and an agreement was reached based on international principles. Additional border markers were erected in order to demarcate the border more clearly. However, the two countries could not reach an agreement on certain matters. The exact location of the border between markers 69 and 70 in the Kolok River zone has been a chronic problem up to today. Thus, the old markers have to be used today, because the new markers have not been ratified. Erecting new markers to demarcate the border clearly is something that must be negotiated by senior officials.

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THAILAND

BRIEFS

RICE STOCKPILING PLANS--Mr Chamlong Tothong, the governor of the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC), discussed the program to accept paddy pledges during the 1987-1988 rice production season. He said that even though the government has not yet passed a resolution ordering the BAAC to take action, he has taken steps to increase the paddy pledges from the farmers. The pledges accepted will almost double as compared with this year. That is, the bank will accept pledges totaling 3.5 million tons. This will cost approximately 7.5 billion baht. This year, the bank accepted pledges of 2.2 million tons at a cost of 3.8 billion baht. Mr Chamlong also discussed the criteria for accepting rice pledges next year. He said that he has revised the policy. Farmers who want to pledge rice to the BAAC must register their barns with the BAAC. The BAAC has made preparations and taken steps to ensure that farmers everywhere have barns. A fund has been established, and farmers who do not have barns may borrow money from this fund to build barns. There is 100 million baht in this fund, 50 million baht for individuals and 50 million baht for cooperatives. Interest is 5 percent. [Text] [42070258d Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 3 Jul 87 p 6] 11943

FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2 URGED

Hanoi DAI DOAN KET in Vietnamese 1 Jun 87 pp 1,3

[Article by Thai Duy: "Make Resolution 2 Part of Life"]

[Text] The question of whether or not Resolution 2 is implemented in correct accordance with its spirit and contents is a profound concern of all manual and white-collar workers in the rural and urban areas. The good thing, and also a source of worry, is that that concern is shared not only by peasants, handicraft workers, industrial workers, the enterprises, etc., but also by the many cadres and party members at the basic level.

Agriculture is the foremost front and the family economy is a part of the socialist economy. Such extremely important and proper tasks as reducing the staffs of the organs, which were set forth by the Fifth Party Congress to invigorate the economy, are still only lines and words on paper, or when codified and transformed into policies or specific rules and measures they are contrary to the goals that were set. Staffs continue to swell. An especially important problem is that thousands of intermediate organs have sprung up which specialize in exploiting the sweat of true workers, while agriculture continues to receive last priority. That is manifested specifically in the policies regarding prices, contracting out, taxes, obligatory contributions, etc., which bear heavily on the peasants. In many places the peasants have returned their land.

The National Assembly, the highest organ of authority of our state, was responsible for allowing that very abnormal situation to continue for many years. Over a long period of time, during the period of bureaucratic centralism, the National Assembly did not truly fulfill its function, and every year approved state plans which were to achieve good results and improve or stabilize living conditions, but in fact many of the plans were not fulfilled and living conditions deteriorated every year. The control stations on the transportation routes caused much inconvenience and loss for the people, and existed for more than 10 years before they were eliminated. The fact that the highest organ of authority agreed with many reports by state organs which were not in accord with the truth led to extremely harmful consequences: the outmoded, old-fashioned policies caused all sorts of difficulties for the production and commercial installations, which have full legal bases on which to exist, because all plans in the agricultural,

industrial, circulation-distribution, and other sectors were recognized by the National Assembly as having been fulfilled, and the centralized bureaucratic-subsidizing mechanism was said to have had a positive effect and to promote production, until it was condemned to the point that there were demands that it be abandoned. At the convening of all national assemblies the press would announce the news in very large, colored headlines, report their fine success, etc.

The Eighth National Assembly was selected after our party issued the resolution of the Sixth Party Congress, followed by the resolution of the Second Plenum of the Party Central Committee, which manifested the determination of our entire party and population to resolutely eliminate the centralized bureaucratic-subsidy mechanism, and especially Resolution 2, which set forth specific measures to fulfill one of the important missions set forth by the Sixth Party Congress: resolving urgent problems regarding distribution-circulation to enable the entire production-circulation system to operate in accordance with objective laws, liberate all production capabilities of society, and rapidly increase social output.

Firmly grasping the spirit and contents of Resolution 2 and becoming imbued with each sentence and word of that resolution is an extremely urgent demand on the part of all national assembly delegates, in order to correctly carry out their legislative and oversight functions. Resolution 2 reflects the ardent aspirations of all true workers, who only want to be treated equally and receive much if they produce much and receive little if they produce little, and desire that people be evaluated on the basis of labor productivity, on the basis of the material volume that is produced. People who do not work directly in the fields who do not have to bear formal and informal obligations find it very difficult to sympathize with the peasants, while many peasants in the South regarded the elimination of the control points on the roads after the party's issuance of Resolution 2 as a second liberation. (The first time, on 30 April 1975, they were only liberated from the yoke of imperialism, while the invisible bonds of the centralized bureaucratic-subsidy mechanism continued to tie the hands of the workers at the basic level.) On Sunday morning, 17 April 1987, in answering a question about "the peasants' response to Resolution 2," the deputy secretary of the Hai Hau (Ha Nam Ninh) district party committee told me, "The peasants believed that the party would eliminate the many injustices in many policies, especially after the Sixth Party Congress, and many people waited for it to do so. After the issuance of Resolution 2, as soon as they heard that except for taxes all obligations to turn over products would be strictly forbidden, as would all contributions which harmed the peasants, and that the exchange relationship between the state and the peasants would have to be based on the principle of selling on a voluntary basis. The people were very pleased. If the peasants and handicraft workers are treated in accordance with the resolution, I am certain that production will develop strongly, but the people are still afraid that it's all talk and that nothing will change."

The Eighth National Assembly is about to convene. It must truly make the people its basis. It is selected by the people, who by means of it exercise control of the state. The National Assembly delegates must, of course, change their way of thinking and work style if they are to fulfill the difficult

responsibilities assigned them by the voters, defend to the end the spirit and contents of Resolution 2, and struggle unyielding against anyone who still wants to maintain the centralized bureaucratic-subsidy mechanism, which causes much harm for the people and nation.

A number of poorly thought-out stands and policies have resulted in the loss of hundreds of millions of dong and accidents which have taken 50 to 70 lives, for which no individual or organ has taken responsibility. Solidarity and unanimity in the National Assembly must above all be based on the strict implementation of the legitimate desires and aspirations of the people, which were crystallized in Resolution 2, by means of its existing authority. The National Assembly must be prepared to take appropriate measures against anyone who deliberately causes difficulty and does not want to change over to the mechanism of socialist economic accounting.

Natural disasters, no matter how great, only cause losses in regions, but stands and policies which are incorrect and remote from life always bring about inestimable losses nationwide. Even an excessively low sugarcane purchase price is sufficient to cause hundreds of sugarcane-growing cooperatives in the North and South to suffer losses and the cooperative members to cut down the sugarcane to use as firewood, so that the land can be used to grow other crops. Such industrial crops as rush, tea, etc., have met similar fates, but very rarely has the National Assembly applied strict measures toward leadership cadres of the ministries and sectors who have drafted policies not based on the actual production situation at the basic level. A directive that failed to stimulate animal husbandry--on "The state monopoly in hog purchasing"--resulted in reducing the number of hogs by hundreds of thousands.

The Eighth National Assembly must correctly fulfill its function, and in addition to commanding and rewarding also warn and dismiss when necessary so that the leadership cadres of the ministries and sectors can promptly overcome the evils of being remote from the people and the basic level, and sending down orders, administrative measures, and conservative, bureaucratic policies from above and forcing the people to carry them out.

More than half of the National Assembly delegates are leadership cadres at the central and local levels. Everyone hopes that they will be very natural in their relations with the people and with the workers at the basic level. Now and then they should set aside a little time to commiserate with the voters who elected them and with the members of agricultural and small industry-handicrafts cooperatives, with workers of enterprises, etc., for only then can they learn which policies are encouraging production and which are harming the people and the state.

The Eighth National Assembly is facing an extremely great challenge: making Resolution 2 part of life and implementing that resolution strictly and correctly by means of laws and policies which will be approved by the National Assembly. The National Assembly delegates are certain to fulfill those difficult missions if they maintain close relations with the basic level, listens attentively to the opinions of the people, the cadres, and the

party members to learn who is talented and virtuous and has the confidence of the people. Only then can they have an accurate basis on which to select worthy people to high leadership positions in our government and state who will be worthy of the people's confidence.

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CSO: 4209/534

OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE SUGGEST IMPROVEMENTS IN CUSTOMS

Hanoi DAI DOAN KET in Vietnamese 1 Jun 87 pp 6,2

[Article by Mai Dinh, reprinted from the April 1987 issue of DAI VIET Newspaper, Association of Patriotic Vietnamese in Canada: "Customs and Tourism"]

[Text] Over the past few years, the number of overseas Vietnamese who have been returning home on visits has increased daily. Along with the development of tourism, many Overseas Vietnamese have commented on outdated practices of Vietnamese customs officers. The Association of Overseas Vietnamese in Canada and the Association of Overseas Vietnamese in France raised this issue in a proposal sent to the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Many overseas Vietnamese newspapers--specifically, DOAN KET in France and DAT NUOC in Australia--have raised the above issue, including a number of suggestions for improving customs procedures.

The experience of many past years has shown that because domestic economic circumstances have been difficult the Vietnamese dong has constantly declined against the value of gold and strong foreign currency, which has created among some overseas Vietnamese or relatives of overseas Vietnamese a psychology of wanting to move their possessions from Vietnam to foreign countries (in the form of gold or precious stones), or some overseas Vietnamese have brought dollar currency to Vietnam from overseas, converted it to Vietnamese currency, and given it to friends for profit from the difference in value. This psychology of buying and selling gold and foreign currency violates the statute of Vietnam law prohibiting "the carrying of gold and silver and rare metals" out of the country. Customs is an agency of the State Council responsible for ensuring compliance with state law. Yet the overly "awkward and superficial" practices of customs at the international airports (Noi Bai and Tan Son Nhat) (where too much time is taken--each person waiting 2-5 hours to get through customs) frustrated most Overseas Vietnamese visiting their homeland and many foreign guests coming to visit or work in Vietnam. Faced with the "open-door" situation after the recent Sixth Party Congress, the tourism sector of Vietnam has a program to promote tourism among overseas Vietnamese and foreigners to come and visit Vietnam. It is a policy that has generated warmth and enthusiasm among groups of overseas Vietnamese around the world. Yet if the practices of customs offices of the state are not promptly improved, there is a possibility that tourism and foreign commerce ~~is~~ be very adversely affected and slowed down as before and the sentiments of visiting overseas Vietnamese and foreign tourists lost.

According to enquiries as yet not statistically substantiated, the majority of Vietnamese living in foreign countries hope to come back to visit their families and the fatherland. No small number also want to come back to make a living, engage in import/export business, or make contributions to the state. The Vietnam Government's policy of expanding tourism is a new gust of wind sowing excited hope in the hearts of overseas Vietnamese. Upon receipt of their permits, many persons have become so happy that they have lost sleep and skipped meals for months before departure. But once they arrived at the airport and met with the indifferent (if not at times offensive), slow, and time-consuming procedures of customs officers, they immediately lose their calm. Many people break into a sweat at customs before they get their tickets. Once the inspection is over, they board the plane, exhale sharply, and look as though they have just been through a storm.

Outmoded practices of customs officers have distinctly diminished sentiments of many overseas Vietnamese toward their homeland. Yet correcting practices of customs officers is not enough, for customs is only an agency with the function of guarding state law. More importantly, the state must change customs laws.

Because Vietnam is a poor country without many rare metals, we agree with the opinion that the state must prohibit rare metals from being transported to foreign countries or being liquidated without permit and should impose taxes on commodities brought in. Vietnam is not the only country in the world with such laws; many other poor countries also have to have similar laws.

Our suggestions have to do with these laws. The state should promulgate them widely, including a clear indication of their limitations. For example, they should be published in the overseas Vietnamese press and announced at airports and embassies, along with applicable penalties, such as 5-10 years for falsifying a visa, or total confiscation of contraband. But in practice, customs should not inspect every traveller thoroughly (most countries do not do this any more), but only make spot inspections of select persons. When inspecting, officers should reflect a courteous attitude such as displayed at other international airports (certainly without instances of anyone asking such questions as "Are you smuggling currency," or statements such as "Declare any money you are hiding" or looking on everyone as a black marketeer. The state should provide the customs sector with more electronic equipment to modernize the means of performing this work.

Regarding foreign currency, many corporations have recently received permission to buy foreign currency from overseas Vietnamese at high prices. Black marketeering in foreign currency has therefore decreased.

Lsjsoebiswwy xs warrswe ebpe pii wsuehow unconcerned with the management of foreign currency should reinvestigate this matter carefully--for instance, the following measures should be considered:

1. At the airport at the time of entry: announcement of the maximum amount of foreign currency which the tourist is allowed not to declare--2,000 American dollars, for instance. Anything above this amount should be declared to customs. And if suddenly found [to be carrying more than this amount] in a customs inspection, a fine will be imposed equivalent to everything above that amount, or it will be confiscated. In this way, customs officers can do without counting money of visitors, which wastes time and is impolite. If

anyone declares more than 2,000 American dollars, the customs officers can invite him into a separate room to count the money, which observe confidentiality regarding the finances of the visitor.

2. Announcements should be clearly posted on regulations regarding expenditure of foreign currency in the country. For instances, overseas Vietnamese are fully authorized to spend foreign currency at state stores without declaring the amount on the customs form, but they must keep receipts. If anyone carrying dollars sells them to private merchants and is caught by market management public security personnel, he is subject to appropriate economic penalties (fines or confiscations of money).

However, permission should be granted to have foreign currency. If an overseas Vietnamese wishes to give his family some foreign currency (or bring gold to his family), the state does not prohibit it, but only prohibits the sale of foreign currency among private individuals, which disrupts the market by increasing inflation.

3. At the airport at the time of departure: Only spot checks should be made of overseas Vietnamese who have not declared gold and foreign currency. Persons who have made declarations (of having more than \$2,000 US) should be required to furnish proof in order to stop black marketeering in foreign currency.

Following are our suggestions to the General Customs Department of Vietnam:

1. Inspections should be waived at time of entry for overseas Vietnamese or foreigners entering the country to do scientific and technical work. If they must be inspected, the process should be abbreviated. Leniency should also be practiced upon departure.

2. With cultural items (books, papers, and printed matters, except music tapes and videos), requirements for prior requests for permits should be waived in order to avoid inconvenience to travellers.

3. With handicrafts and artifacts, export duties should be waived. Anyone should be allowed to carry as much as they want, which is the only way to encourage export and create work domestically.

4. As for bringing in various types of curative medicines, except dangerous drugs (such as tranquilizers), they should not be considered taxable commodities.

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CSO: 4209 /535

PROCEDURES FOR PAYING EXPENSES OF FOREIGN VISITORS OUTLINED

Hanoi NGOAI THUONG in Vietnamese 5 Jun 87 p 8

[Text] In order to implement the "incoming, outgoing delegation" management decentralization policy of the chairman of the Council of Ministers with the aim of reducing bothersome procedures while at the same time plugging the loopholes and preventing people from profiting from welcoming and serving foreign visitors, after exchanging ideas and reaching unanimous agreement with the sectors concerned, the Office of the Council of Ministers issued the following notice on the views of the chairman of the Council of Ministers on procedures for paying the food, lodging, and travel expenses of foreigners staying in our country:

1. In the case of foreign groups whom we invited and whose expenses are being paid by us, the agency welcoming the guests is to pay the domestic business and service organizations in Vietnamese currency based on the service prices in effect for Vietnamese citizens.

The agency welcoming the guests must show a visitor invitation to the business and service organizations. The invitation must have been signed by the minister, vice minister, or equivalent or the chairman or vice chairman of the provincial or municipal people's committee or people's committee of the special zone directly subordinate to the central echelon. They must pay by check or other suitable means that do not involve the use of cash.

2. In the case of other foreign groups not included in the above, the guests must pay their living and travel expenses to the business and service organizations in foreign currency or in Vietnamese banknotes with a foreign currency source based on the service prices in effect for foreigners.

The agencies welcoming the visitors cannot pay on behalf of the visitors in Vietnamese currency in order to make use of the foreign currency used by the visitors to pay for their food, lodging, and travel expenses while in the country.

11943
CSO: 4209/526

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNISM VERSUS RELIGIONS

Hanoi TAP CHI GIAO DUC LY LUAN in Vietnamese Feb-Mar 87 pp 45-50

[Article by Nguyen Quoc Pham, Nguyen Ai Quoc High Level Party School: "Lesson: Scientific Communism Versus Religions"]

[Text] Effectively exploiting and using real material in teaching political theory pose new requirements. The lesson on scientific communism versus religions itself demands a rich source of real material. To satisfactorily use these materials is to contribute explanations of theoretical questions while simultaneously helping students to relate to and explain practical questions in the field of religion. Reality teaches and study indicates that the combativeness and persuasiveness of the lesson is principally there.

When teaching this lesson, colleagues readily agree with each other on setting the requirements and standards for selecting and using real material in lessons. This is on the basis of the content and requirement of the lesson and should: exploit, select, and use practical information reflecting the socially, politically significant law nature of the religious problem, the most important of which being materials which reflect the organizational process; guide the practical operations of our party in religious policy and in implementing that policy with a view toward resolving the religious problem in keeping with the situation and special characteristics of religions in Vietnam.

Obviously, the use of real materials in lessons cannot have any one model, from the procedure and form to the content and material used in each specific subject. But due to the uniqueness of this question, the scientific nature, the practical nature, and the persuasive power of the lesson posit the "standards" of the real material exploited and used which are:

Real materials about the religious problem are highly typical and general in nature, and help the listener and student get himself in contact with reality. In the religious problem there are many materials, "events," and interesting details (especially materials in life, religious psychology, the reactionary political nature of modern religions, etc.), but one must seek, choose, and use typical materials, directly connect them to subjects which the lesson should clarify, and avoid digression because "real stories" are scattered.

These materials must be accurate and true. It begins with the scientific nature and persuasive power of the lesson and, on the other hand, is the result of the struggle to overcome the influence of the spiritual power and superstition religion brings out.

The materials used must be highly critical and combative in nature. The problem is not only selecting practical materials aimed toward criticizing religion (the reactionary political nature, scientific reactionism, and anti-progress of religion) but is also in that one must look for, choose, and use material that criticizes and recognizes vagueness and deviant tendencies in solving the religious problem under socialism.

We must select materials that are contemporary in nature. This is a regular requirement in adding real information to lessons. The struggle against reactionary influences which take advantage of religion to oppose and destroy the revolution is growing more and more complex and subtle every day. In our country, solving the religious problem in the first stage of the transitional period raises questions which should be researched and explained promptly. Thus, the contemporary nature of the information in lessons is very important.

In this lesson we do not carefully discuss methods, forms and standards for exploiting and using real materials. We would like to generalize below about the real materials which should be exploited and used in lessons as drawn from experience in teaching this lesson and from the practicalities of the religious problem in Vietnam.

1. Regarding the situation and special characteristics of religions in Vietnam.

There are many different religions in our country, but the number of followers is not very large. Each religion historically has had a varied development and scope of influence among the laboring masses. Our country has five big religions (Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Caodaiism, and Hoahaoism) with a fairly complicated distribution. According to recent data from the Committee on Religion, the total number of followers of religions is approximately 14 million (approximately 25 percent of the country's population). Of this, Buddhism has 6 million followers and Catholicism, 4 million (1.5 million in the North and 2.5 million in the South), the remainder being Protestant, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao. Religious associations in our country have numbers not worth mentioning.

A fairly outstanding feature in the situation and special characteristics of religions in Vietnam is that, during the course of its development, religion was used by imperialists, colonialists, the ruling class, and reactionary powers to oppress the spirit of the laboring people and protect their interests. Several features of the situation with religions can be pointed out to clearly see this. For Catholicism, the history of religious influx is closely connected with the history of the French colonialists' invasion of our country. Allow me to cite several important markers during the course of the spread of Catholicism: in 1624, the missionary Alexandre de Rhodes, with status as a person from the "Paris Society of Foreign Missions," came to Vietnam. Upon his return home, he drew a map of Vietnam with the caption,

"This is a place which must be taken. If it is, European traders will obtain an abundant source of profits and raw materials." In 1669, Pallu, the first bishop in the Far East, wrote a letter to the French Navy Ministry requesting quick takeover of the Red River valley. In 1784, Pigneau, a French missionary, met Nguyen Anh and lent him a hand to "bring the enemy into the home." In 1858, when the first sounds of the French colonialists' guns fired into Da Nang, there were bishops on the French battleship taking part in commanding this attack. Throughout the course of ruling our country the French colonialists turned Catholicism into spiritual arms to support the objective of invasion and domination. From the French foothold, the Americans jumped into Indochina and Catholicism again was used by the American imperialists as a tool in hopes of dividing national solidarity, destroying the Vietnamese revolution, and supporting their evil, long-term scheme. After 1954, America-Diem forced more than half a million Catholics from the North into the South, established anti-communist belts, and built the Catholic refugee area into the rear area of the America-Diem administration. Under the Saigon puppet regime, the Catholic Church was nourished, experienced the bourgeoisie process, and conspired more and more closely with the imperialists and puppet administration and the comprador bourgeoisie class. Catholicism had a fairly large political and social role ("presidents" Diem and Thieu, "premier" Khiem, and many ministers and generals were Catholics; more than 30 percent of the regular army, 60 percent of the junior officers, 75 percent of the senior officers, 40 of 60 seats in the upper house and 40 of 135 seats in the lower house were Catholics). In Ho Chi Minh City before liberation, Catholicism controlled the entire educational system: 195 elementary schools, 71 middle schools, 1 college, 5 specialized technical schools, and 1 educational research institute managing 300,000 youths and teenagers, i.e., one half the city's students.

Catholicism has relatively large economic power with many production and business enterprises, and many banks and hotels collecting hundreds of millions of dong in profits. In actuality, the Catholic Church in the South before liberation was completely transformed into the America-puppet administration's tool of domination. Immediately following liberation, the reactionaries using religion set up reactionary organizations to scheme, foment unrest, conduct espionage operations, destroy the revolution, etc.

Buddhism in our country also went through the process of being divided and used by the colonial imperialists. Under the Americans-puppets, Buddhism was profoundly divided and had sects with famous anti-communist power (the An Quang sect). There were many installations training Buddhist monks and nuns, the advanced school of Buddhism, and the Van Hanh school. After liberation, An Quang Buddhists plotted to form a force, colluded with reactionary forces, and opposed the revolution.

The Cao Dai and Hoa Hao, throughout the course of their growth and existence, were always taken advantage of by the colonial imperialists and reactionaries. The reactionary political nature was systematically manifested in the leaders of these sects. The Cao Dai (especially the Tay Ninh Cao Dai sect, the center of Caodaism) was closely allied with and was the lackey for the French, Japanese, and Americans, and stubbornly opposed the revolution. Under the Americans-puppets, the Cao Dai were nourished and indulged, and expanded their

forces in close association with the puppet administration. By 1976, the Cao Dai still had some 19 branches in 12 sects and 2 million followers, with many reactionary organizations plotting disorder and the overthrow of the administration. The Hoa Hao was also in a similar situation prior to liberation.

2. Regarding our Party's policy toward religions and the results achieved during the course of guiding implementation.

From the situation and special characteristics of religions in Vietnam and the creative use of Marxist-Leninist principles in solving the religious problem, our party has set forth a correct religious policy in the national democratic revolution as well as in the socialist revolution. Following the reunification of the country, there have been the Council of Ministers' Directive 297, the Secretariat's Resolution 40, and many directives concerning the religious problem in general and each religion specifically.

The rich and complex reality in the question of religion demands that our party apply religious policies in keeping with the each religion's specific situation and consistent with the overall relationship of the socialist revolution in the initial stage of the transitional period. The method, form, and path to overcome religious influence are set forth by specific policy.

For Catholicism, our party and state advocate education, reform, church organizations, attracting followers, dividing the ranks of authorities and the hierarchy, and unifying the church organization in the country. We respect the people's freedom of belief and disbelief and, at the same time, sternly punish under the law those individuals who take advantage of religion to oppose the revolution.

For Buddhism, we have also reformed organizations and unified the Buddhist organization throughout the entire country, abolished reactionary Buddhist organizations (such as the An Quang sect), and directed Buddhism into the national orbit and concentration on religious work.

For Protestantism, we are advocating quick resolution of reactionary political problems in their organizations, restricting contact with the American Protestant organization, tracking down and bringing to trial under the law reactionaries in the Protestant organization in the Central Highlands who, in coordination with FULRO, have opposed the revolution since liberation.

With the Cao Dai and Hoa Hao we are advocating permitting these two religions to exist in the localities, not unifying organizations, introducing religious activities into temples, and promptly dealing with organizations which take advantage of the Cao Dai and Hoa Hao religions to plot unrest and destroy the revolution.

Thanks to having a correct religious policy and specific policies for each religion, guiding implementation of the party's and state's religious policy has, through practice, brought tremendous results.

First of all, we have built and maintained the all-people bloc of solidarity, crushed the enemy's schemes to divide religious and nonreligious compatriots, and mobilized the tremendous forces of the compatriots holding religious beliefs to actively participate in building socialism and defending the fatherland. In the resistance against America, tens of thousands of religious families have encouraged their children to perform their military duty fully and actively take part in satisfactorily performing their duty as citizens to contribute greatly to the anti-American cause. Many localities, units, and individuals, the heroic and progressive units in the resistance against America, were areas of religious compatriots.

Since the reunification of the country, religious compatriots have, together with all the people, actively been involved in building socialism. The masses' revolutionary movement in areas with religious beliefs has undergone tremendous change. Many more new models and elements are developing. The Quyet Tien II collective, Giong Rieng District, Kien Giang Province, an heroic unit in production and in the collectivization movement, is a Khmer Buddhist area. The Van Xuan Fishing Cooperative, Nghi Loc District (a Catholic area) has for dozens of years in succession been the standard bearer in fishing and in fulfilling Nghe Tinh Province's obligation to the state. The Kinh 4A Cooperative, Giong Rieng District, is the top ranked cooperative in Kien Giang Province's collectivization movement as well as a Catholic area. Many cooperatives in religious areas in Hai Hau (Ha Nam Ninh) are models in agricultural production, building a cultural and spiritual life, etc.

The revolutionary movement of the masses in areas with religious beliefs, and the new models and elements there, have vividly illustrated by practice that the religious problem can only be implemented through the process of the three revolutions and must be closely tied to the "who beats who" struggle between the two paths presently.

From the day the South was completely liberated we have promptly solved the reactionary political problem extant in religious organizations.

In Catholicism, immediately after 30 April 1975, we immediately expelled dozens of foreign priests; concentrated on reforming chaplains in the old puppet army; and handled, controlled, and reformed extreme, certified anti-communist priests. In Ho Chi Minh City we expelled emissary Henri Lemaitre and 36 foreign priests, concentrated on reforming 52 chaplains and reforming 55 extreme anti-communist priests quickly taken over and nationalized socioeconomic facilities of reactionary Catholic organizations, discovered and dealt with hundreds of cases of fomenting unrest and organizing schemes to sow disorder in hopes of overthrowing the revolutionary administration, smashed schemes to destroy the revolution by the "National Restoration Militia" in the Vinh Son church and a number of localities, and by the "National Liberation Front" in Ho Chi Minh City and provinces in Nam Bo, quashed the scheme of the Dong Ten sect in the Dac Lo center to make contact with foreign reactionaries to destroy the effort to build socialism, etc. In Caodaism, we have promptly punished reactionaries in the Tay Ninh Cao Dai sect by means of a public trial before numerous people, abolished "Cau co" in Caodaism, introduced religious activities into temples, and dealt quickly and promptly with political and reactionary elements. In Tay Ninh Province from liberation to

1983, we discovered 35 incidents, arrested 1,291 people, executed 39, and concentrated reform on more than 1,000 people belonging to such organizations as the "National Full-Force Unification Front," the "International Reconciliation Council," the "Front for National Salvation from Danger," and many other disguised religious reactionary organizations. Regarding the Hoa Hao religion, we have concentrated on tracking down remnant forces hiding in the "Holy Land" with the slogan "defend the 'Holy Land' till death," disbanded the reactionary management and organization board in the Hoa Hao, forced "officials" to operate purely religiously, etc.

The unification of the large religious organizations throughout the country (Catholicism, Buddhism) is the manifestation of our party's and state's respect for freedom of belief and freedom of disbelief. In Catholicism, following the initiative of priests and bishops, we have let the "Congress of Fatherland-Loving and Peace-Loving Vietnamese Catholics" (1983) elect the "solidarity committee of patriotic Vietnamese catholics" with status as a member of the Vietnam Fatherland Front. This is a great success in the party's religious policy and in the measure and path to overcome religion. The successful organization of the Asian Buddhist Conference (1985) in Vietnam is also the manifestation of the vitality of our party's and state's policy of respecting the freedom of belief.

On the basis of clearly distinguishing the two aspects, political and ideological, and having measures consistent with solving each aspect, we have also obtained great results in reforming church organizations, dividing the ranks of authorities and the hierarchy, and following the path with the people and socialism. These are results the process of carrying out the party's religious policy has brought.

However, the practice of guiding implementation of the party's religious policy still has limitations, enduring from realization to practical activity. It is easily recognized that there are places and times when the political and ideological aspects in the religious problem cannot be distinguished, so there is the "leftist" tendency which wants to quickly solve the religious problem by administration and force. Then there is the rightist tendency, indifferent to the loss of vigilance which lets the enemy take advantage of religion to oppose and destroy the revolution, especially in the face of the policy of "keeping with the times" in the big religions wherein the political and ideological question is very complicated.

3. Some features regarding the situation and special characteristics of religion in the face of the times' revolutionary change.

Today, religious ideology is in the midst of a serious crisis which is closely connected to the crisis of capitalism. The direct reason for the crisis in religion is the strong effect of the revolutionary currents of the times, the violent-like growth of science and technology, and the improvement of the material and spiritual life of the laboring people in Marxist-Leninist socialist countries which is increasingly assuming predominance in the life of human society.

Instances of "religious dryness," "religious staleness" and "secularism" in the large religions is the specific manifestation of the religious crisis. In the midst of this crisis, reactionary influences are endeavoring to cope with a view toward maintaining and expanding religion in keeping with the times. In our country, the policy of "keeping with the times" also has many manifestation in the Catholic church, especially with regard to the Catholic area in the South, particularly the immigrant Catholic area.

The most outstanding instance in the policy of "keeping with the times" in Catholic organizations in the South is the church's subtle penetration of the economic, social, and political spheres. In Ho Chi Minh City during 1983 and 1984, scores of priests were working in production cooperation teams and in many state-run enterprises, and were becoming state employees. The Pham Van Voi state farm alone had more than 100 monks of various sorts involved in state farm production but, in reality, this was a theological research installation we discovered later. In the provinces of Nam Bo many priests are engaged in production in agricultural production collectives. In the culture and education fields, the Catholic church in the South is also actively "involved." They have many subtle ploys to attract and hold ranks of teachers in Catholic areas. Some places are even using teachers to teach dogma to students (in Tan Hiep B Village, Tan Hiep District, Kien Giang Province, and in the 4th Precinct, Ho Chi Minh City).

By means of cultural, artistic and literary activities and using disguised "singing groups" and "discussion groups" in churches, the church has actively penetrated the activities of youths and teenagers and is seeking every way possible to maintain the development of religion in the younger generation. It is changing the form of religious activity and, through "conformity" and "involvement," is strengthening the operation of the church at the primary level and expanding the number of teachers. In Dong Nai during 1983, an additional 1.500 people without a religion joined the church; in Tan Hiep A Village, Tan Hiep District, since the liberation there have been 11 people without a religion among the ranks of teachers who have joined the church, including two female teachers who came from the North to work. Thach That District (Hanoi) previously had 16 villages which were Catholic. At one time this had fallen to 10 villages, but recently all 16 villages have "returned," including many forms of "in-house monks."

The point of the several features is to see that presently in the first stage of the transitional period, confronted with difficulties in many respects, especially living conditions, if we are indifferent and lose vigilance in the face of the policy of "penetration," and "keeping with the times," the religious problem will undergo complicated changes.

On the other hand, however, we have a correct religious policy, the masses of teachers generally have the people's splendid quality of tradition, and every scheme of the influential to take advantage of religion to block the progress of the revolution will surely be defeated.

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ARMY POLITICAL CADRES EXHORTED TO RENOVATE WORK STYLE

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese May 87 pp 44-48, 63

[Article by Colonel Nguyen Nhu Lang: "Renovating Work Style of Political Cadres"]

[Text] To renovate the thinking, the ranks of cadres, the work style! Not to cease heightening the fighting power and practical organizing capacity of the party! This idea on the part of the 6th Party Congress is being urgently imposed on all fields of our society's activities.

Work style represents both quality and capacity in the practical activities of our cadres and party members. For deputy commanders in charge of political affairs, and for political directors in the armed forces as well, whether the work style of every person is good or bad directly affects the strength of leadership of party organizations and the effectiveness of party and political work in army units.

Deputy commanders in charge of political affairs and political directors are party members selected and trained by the party and state to carry out the party and political work in army units. Because of the functions and tasks assigned to them, their work style must be that of leading cadres. For this type of cadres in the Red Army, Lenin often required them to be not only the true and direct representatives of the Soviet administration but also the people who would express the spirit, discipline, firmness, and courage of the party in the struggle for achieving the assigned goals.

The work style of political cadres must reflect the method and behavior used in carrying out the party and political work in the army. This is the party's method and behavior, which fully express and closely combine the revolutionary and scientific character of the mode adopted by the party in promoting the revolution in its leadership and political work.

The pattern, behavior, and method in party and political work and the work style of political cadres were shaped a few decades ago and have made important contributions to heightening the effectiveness of party and political work in regard to fulfilling the army's building and combat tasks. Thus to renovate the work style is really to inherit, consolidate, and further develop the fine behavior that already exist; to supplement and perfect them in order to make them suit better the requirements imposed by the party leadership task on the armed forces in the new stage; and at the same time to firmly overcome and abolish the bad habits and practices that go against the

party's method and behavior and to fully reflect the revolutionary and scientific character in the party and political work and in the work style of political cadres.

At present, as many localities have pointed out, we must overcome the tendency to be vague and superficial; stress practical and realistic action; make words match action; overcome the way of doing work in an irresponsible manner and with disregard for results; work closely with the masses and attentively listen to their opinion; fight bureaucratic and administrative practices; and smoothly combine various aspects of the leadership, command, political, rear-service, and technical work among sectors, echelons, and units in the army with the work of local party organizations, administrations, and mass organizations. The work style of political cadres must also be sharp to allow them to discover new things, to support new things, to overcome sluggish and conservative character, lack of firmness and total devotion, and so on. On the basis of these requirements we can think of the following points in our efforts to renovate the work style of political cadres.

1. There must be investigation and study as we do our work.

Investigation and study are aimed at understanding the real situation and being able to make correct and accurate decisions.

The 6th Party Congress has sternly pointed out that one of the mistakes and shortcomings in determining the goals and steps to be taken toward building the material and technical base, making socialist reforms, and carrying out economic management was the fact that we have lacked investigation and study and have failed to accurately assess the socioeconomic aspects of our country's real situation.

In the military activities in the last few years, the lesson we have learned from the unsuccessful combat leadership in some units first pointed out to their subjective combat determination which was not based on a correct, accurate, and practical investigation and study of the enemy and our side. The same lesson has been drawn from the success of the units that properly fulfilled their task and achieved a high degree of combat effectiveness.

In ideological work, many experienced political cadres have been doing their ideological work in an active and effective manner because they know how to conduct investigation and study, to know their subject very well, to adopt many active forms and measures, to stress the values of combat and persuasion while striking a balance between reason and sentiments--as the result of all this they have been able to overcome in time the wrong ideological concepts and have contributed to maintaining and further developing the proud revolutionary nature and traditions of the army. However, there still exist quite a few political cadres who do their ideological work in a subjective, simplistic, and one-way manner; lack investigation and study; and fail to know very well the real ideological tendencies and psychological changes of each subject. As a result, whenever something negative happens, these cadres become passive and confused and then heavily lean toward disciplinary action, which sometimes leads to ruthless measures and makes the situation worse. In some cases it led to serious consequences.

To do work without investigation and study is the sign of subjectivism, voluntarism, and a simplistic and impatient thinking and acting pattern. It is also a bureaucratic style of leadership and way of doing things, with disregard for any established work pattern.

2. There must be plans as we do our work.

Plans represent scientific work style and show that we have positive and realistic goals, steps, and measures to achieve the set goals; know how to calculate timing, distribution of work, and rational use of work force; anticipate the most difficult circumstances; and have plans for leadership, education, and timely correction in order to act on our own initiative to fulfill our task.

Showing this style while performing their responsibilities, many political cadres have been able to set up a well-planned work pattern and to carry out smoothly coordinated activities in connection with the party and political work. But generally speaking, compared to the requirements, this style remains a weakness on the part of our political cadres, which clearly shows in the following:

-- Plans still are vague and lack serious contents and positive and realistic measures.

-- Many plans do not stay close to the political task of a unit, nor do they build ideological work and organizing activities around the fulfillment of a central task that this unit is assigned in a given period. The reason for this is the fact that those who draft such plans fail to thoroughly understand party committee resolutions and instructions and orders from superior echelons and also fail to develop in a smooth and synchronized manner the various aspects of the political organ's work in accordance with unified leadership of deputy commanders in charge of political affairs. In a number of basic units, the monthly party and political work plans usually are just a simple gathering of actual plans drafted by assistants and, because of a lack of centralized leadership, are duplicative, have narrow limits, and do not stay close to the political tasks of these units.

-- Coordination between political organs on the one hand and staff, logistical, and technical organs on the other during the plan-drafting period, as well as for carrying out plans, is not strict enough and does not show any mutual support.

-- The efforts to guide and assist the lower echelons in organizing implementation of their plans usually do not go beyond holding conferences to disseminate plans, nor do they satisfy the leadership plan requirements of working very closely with basic units and companies and providing on-the-spot training and guidance. In the case of new and difficult things, we must select particular units to do them on a trial basis to get some experience so that we could take general leadership action and control and supervisory measures and, after the completion of such work, get the necessary experience in directing other units toward obtaining the greatest results.

Acting in a bureaucratic, subjective, spontaneous manner and at one's convenience also is the reason behind a work style that either lacks planning or is based on plans that are unrealistic. At the same time, it points to weaknesses in terms of capabilities and professional skills. We must consider drafting party and political work plans and carrying them out every month, every quarter, and for the duration of a particular task of a unit, not only an important responsibility but also the evidence of our political cadres' responsibilities and actual ability to act.

3. There must be principles and laws as we do our work; and we must speak, write, and do things in accordance with party resolutions.

The party's organizing power results from fully implementing the principle of democratic centralism. This principle is the most important one that guides the activities of party organizations and also constitutes the work style that reflects our party's revolutionary nature. Only by correctly implementing the principle of democratic centralism can we strongly ensure unity of thinking and action within the party. The 6th Party Congress has sternly criticized the lack of unity, as well as bureaucratic centralism, paternalism, authoritarianism, localism, individualism, and so on, which go against democratic centralism and slacken the enforcement of laws within the party, the state machinery, and society.

Political cadres are the people being in charge of party and political work and having the direct responsibility for party building in compliance with the party's principles, policies, and resolutions. This task requires that they stress the work style which truly reflects the party's principle of democratic centralism. In all of their activities, they must satisfy this requirement: to think, to speak, to write, and to do things in accordance with the party's line, policies, and resolutions; to closely combine democratic behavior and the way to do work along with the masses with a respect for the centralized leadership right of the party and party organizations.

In recent years, the party organizations in many basic units of the army have been unable to develop effective leadership and fighting power. There were many reasons, including a neglecting in implementing the party principles on the part of party committee echelons, key leaders, and commanders. Many important policies on fulfilling the political tasks of units, on cadres' work, and so on, were not fully discussed to arrive at unanimity among party committee echelons and cadres. Many resolutions did not specify any individuals' responsibilities. Self-criticisms and criticisms, control, party discipline, and army discipline were loose and were not carried out in a just and orderly manner. To treat people with reluctance and indulgence and to quit fighting was still common. At conferences people no longer debated to determine what was right and what was wrong; outside the conference halls, people talked and criticized in an unprincipled manner. Among some party committee echelons, the loss of solidarity among secretaries and commanders was left unresolved for too long. A number of political cadres who spoke and acted at their own convenience, or spoke of one thing and did another thing, lost prestige among party members and the masses and adversely affected the enforcement of the party laws and army discipline.

To strengthen collective leadership and to expand democratic activities is being an urgent demand having to do with the leadership style of our party because "the understanding and experience of individuals are limited. Every subjective, authoritarian, and simplistic decision is bound to contain mistakes." (Footnote 1) (Political Report of the CPV Central Committee at the 6th Party Congress)

Thus the work style of key leading cadres based on collective democracy originates from the party's collective leadership principle. Collective leadership, which goes hand in hand with distribution of work and with upholding the sense of individual responsibility, means to maintain close relationships with party committee echelons, particularly commanders, in order to unify the leadership and guidance intentions having to do with various aspects of building, training, combat readiness, combat, and political work in army units.

To stay close to realities, to work closely with the masses, and to listen attentively to their opinions always is a requirement of the new work style. For the topmost lesson of experience learned by the 6th Party Congress from the revolutionary realities of the past years is "to thoroughly understand the concept of 'the people are the roots' and to build and further develop the ownership right of the working people." For the armed forces, it is necessary to make our troops, and first of all our cadres, understand that to achieve democracy is not only a matter of interests but also their responsibility and obligation. The important thing is to create favorable conditions for our cadres and combatants to express their concept and right of ownership and to contribute more ideas to the work of their units. Cadres must attentively listen to and respect the opinions of combatants. All phenomena, such as acting in a bureaucratic manner, issuing orders, staying aloof from the masses, and failing to listen and attach importance to their opinions, will reduce the strength of party organizations and units.

The same applies to political cadres: This style must be closely linked with fulfilling their responsibilities. For political work first of all is leading and motivating the masses.

To properly organize and carry out successfully activities on the "company political day" when leading cadres and commanders at all levels make direct contact with cadres and large numbers of combatants is becoming a need of the masses. At the same time, it is a lively sign of the renovation of the army cadres' work style.

To adopt a work style based on principles and the law and requiring working closely with the masses reflects the organizing style and discipline of our leading and commanding cadres. It is also the great industrial style of the worker class: to work in accordance with industrial programs, to observe discipline and technical requirements, to obtain good productivity and quality and great efficiency, to avoid working at will and one's convenience, not to evade responsibility, nor to be unprincipled, to do easy work and to drop difficult one.

4. to maintain the system of reviewing experience and discipline in making reports.

To make criticisms and self-criticisms is the party's development rule. It is the motivation behind every activity of the party, state, and army.

To maintain criticisms and self-criticisms and to carry out in an orderly manner the system of reviewing experience after every task and work period reflects a serious work style and high sense of responsibility toward an assigned job.

The campaign to solicit criticisms and self-criticisms during the preparations for the 6th Party Congress made important contributions to the success of our party congresses at all levels. However, the self-criticism and criticism system has not become routine yet. Many units, organs, and enterprises, in their quarterly and annual reviews, still leaned heavily upon celebrating successes and praising achievements, did not dare to look straight at the truth and to assess the truth accurately, and failed to make accurate reports to their superior echelons. Many achievements were false ones; many negative phenomena that had done harm to the common interests were not seriously reviewed and even covered up in many forms.

That was the work style that showed a lack of responsibility and was full of localism, selfishness, and individualism. In some cases it was heavily affected by a sense of opportunism. In such cases, the leading and commanding cadres liked to be praised and flattered; in dealing with their superiors, they covered up the truth, made false reports, flattered them, and fawned on them; in dealing with their subordinates, they acted on the basis of their prejudices and oppressed those people who had dared to criticized them, to reveal the shortcomings of their units, their own shortcomings, and so on. Those were the important reasons that have led to a loss of solidarity, disunity, and serious decrease of fighting power of units and leadership effectiveness of party organizations.

Lenin had often taught: "If we are not afraid of speaking the truth, however bitter and heavy it may be, we will surely and definitely succeed in learning how to defeat any difficulty." (Footnote 2) (Lenin: "Complete Works," Progress Publishing House, Moscow, 1978, Volume 44, p 260) To renovate the work style in the spirit prevailing at the 6th Party Congress is a long and hard process of struggling against conservative habits and bourgeois behavior to bring about good productivity and quality and great work efficiency.

To renovate the work style must simultaneously take place in party committee echelons, in the machinery of command, and in organs and all echelons and sectors of the party and political work. Only then can we renovate the work style of political organs and political cadres and thus contribute to heightening the leadership strength of our party and developing the effectiveness of party and political work in army units.

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EXPORT LABOR BENEFITS COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

Hanoi GIAO THONG VAN TAI in Vietnamese 21 May 87 p 5

[Article by Professor-Doctor Le Duc Hao, chief of the Department of International Cooperation: "Labor Cooperation-Creating a Salient"]

[Text] Labor cooperation with foreign countries is extremely rich and varied. It is possible for labor within the country to create a source of export goods. An example is the program of cooperation until 1995 with three fraternal countries (the Soviet Union, Bulgaria and the Democratic Republic of Germany) to build 300 floating conveyances (including ships under 3,000 tons) at enterprises of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications shipbuilding federation with our shop facilities and our friends supplying the equipment, production lines, materials, etc. The products made are supplied to other countries and within our country. It must be recognized here that although our shipbuilding industry is not yet strong compared with other countries, we are still able to suitably operate with ships of large carrying capacity of about 3,000 to 5,000 tons. The advanced industrial nations are now inclined toward construction of ships of tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of tons.

The foreign economic relations of our communications and transportation sector are first of all with the Soviet Union, Laos, Cambodia and nations in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. At the same however, we have also opened relations with developing nations such as India, Iraq, Angola, etc., and capitalist nations with organizations or individuals such as Sweden, Finland, Japan, Belgium, etc. Since the state promulgated the investment law, these relations have become even stronger. Some examples are the preparations with India to build new railroad cars at the Di An plant; preparations to cooperate with Finland in repairing the ships of other nations during the years to come, etc.

Parallel with cooperation with other countries and the use of labor and factories for production within the country to create products and goods for international circulation, we are also promoting the export of labor to foreign countries in many forms: exporting specialists and accepting project contracts, by the stage or each individual or labor group. Our communications and transportation sector is presently exporting labor to the Soviet Union, the Democratic Republic of Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Iraq. In

relations with foreign countries on labor, it is possible to follow the route of a government agreement, and between enterprises directly signing contracts with each other under ministry guidance. By many other routes, our communications and transportation sector has rotated not only hundreds and thousands but many thousands of laborers. We have initially gained much successful experience such as Vehicle Repair Plant 3 (of the Federation of Vehicle Transportation Enterprises), through the direct contact route, signing contracts with two enterprises in Czechoslovakia, METAZ and AVIA, for the years of 1987 and 1988 to annually export 150 to 200 workers to those two enterprises. Enterprises of the friends have also assisted us (Vehicle Plant 3) to increase the capacity and expand the production of the plant, to restore the equipment, to accept an on-the-job training group, and to exchange delegations of outstanding workers traveling to visit and on vacation. Thus, export contracts have allowed our labor force to expand in range, to be trained through the receipt of technology and advanced labor organization, and to expand production right in our own factories.

With virtues of skilled and organized labor diligence, we have earned the confidence of foreign countries. However, this is not to say there have been no sporadic instances of "one rotten apple spoiling the barrel." To cite one example is the labor in Iraq. While the train operators and machine workers have labor discipline, a number of the bus drivers have engaged in erroneous actions, causing difficulty in achieving the contract to send 800 bus drivers to Iraq. This is also a lesson in experience we must gain with the purpose of thoroughly understanding the objectives and requirements of export labor cooperation. Known as "taking a bell to ring in the countries of others," it is necessary to have skilled, firm and voluntary individuals with quality, a concept of discipline and full advanced training before a firm selection is made.

The ranks of laborers made up of engineers and workers from our sectors are from many trades: capital construction, industry, transportation and service of many types of rail, river, ocean and ground transportation. The problem is the need to recruit and introduce these capabilities of Vietnamese communications and transportation to foreign countries in an active manner and by many forms, including the publication of pictorial magazines with beautiful color pictures and specific explanations in two or three common foreign languages.

To create conditions for cooperative activity with foreign countries in the labor field, it is suggested that the state promulgate a number of stipulations on the policy system of using foreign exchange in labor cooperation, building and repairing ships for foreign countries, and opening foreign exchange accounts of the ministry. First of all is the authority of the ministry to receive part of the foreign exchange produced by export labor in order to provide the requirements of the sector that the state cannot. In cases in which the state uses that money to repay debts (such as with Iraq), it should be changed into Vietnamese currency at a fixed rate of exchange for the ministry to pay off the expenses of labor export (training, selection and salaries in country, and the purchase of equipment for the laborers when they depart).

Labor export in the broad sense to our sector is a current problem, achievement of the right policy for a way out, etc. Therefore, by investing thought and organization in production facilities and with the creative ability of daring to think and act in conjunction with the versatile guidance of the responsible departments and the tight supervision of ministry leadership, we will surely expand labor relations with foreign countries and, along with other relations, our sector will have additional conditions for promoting production, building the sector, and assisting to stabilize the lives of the cadres, workers and civil servants.

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION FOR 1986-1990 PERIOD OUTLINED

Hanoi TAP SAN CONG NGHIEP NHE in Vietnamese No 225 Apr 87 pp 1-2

[Text] Goals. In the past 5 years, consumer goods production has increased, but a great imbalance between supply and demand has still been noted. The people, mostly those in the countryside, have experienced a sharp shortage of consumer goods.

Implementing the policy of stabilizing all aspects of the socioeconomic situation in accordance with the resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress, our party has pledged to "direct all efforts toward meeting the urgent and essential needs of society," not only for food but also clothing and essential household utensils. Consumer goods production was made by the party congress into one of the three great programs for the remaining years of the transitional road to socialism, especially the coming 5 years (1986-1990).

The goals of that program are, as follows:

- Meet the people's essential and pressing needs,
- Accumulate capital and create a major source of exports, and
- Attract laborers and create more jobs for the people.

Views on Developing Consumer Goods Production

--Exploit and use fully the great potential of industry, small industry and handicrafts, and domestic raw materials; and step up consumer goods production at all installations and in various sectors and economic components, using all organizational forms, scales, and levels of technique.

--Produce many kinds of consumer goods to serve the multiform needs of society and suit various tastes of localities and ages, ranging the gamut from great needs to simple consumer goods for everyday use and see to it that staple commodities are not in short supply.

--Increase production while guaranteeing quality; keep renovating merchandise specifications and make sure that products are made in accordance with technique and aesthetics.

Measures and Policies

Material and Technical Bases:

--Reserve in priority material conditions for existing enterprises, particularly those large ones which produce with efficiency, to enable them to operate at capacity. Those production installations which were built years ago and whose machinery and equipment are too old and damaged, should be renovated technically by degrees to ensure quantitative production, diversification, and product quality.

--Furnish more machinery and equipment to small industry and handicrafts.

--Give full attention to developing big cities with production capabilities into centers to product consumer goods for the entire nation and for each area.

About Raw Materials:

--A key goal is to strive to create and exploit domestic sources of raw materials through planning, investments, and incentive policies. Raw materials coming from agriculture, forestry, and fishing should be grown in adequate quantities in specialized areas to cater to processing factories; and close and direct cooperation should be established between the latter and raw material zones through economic contracts, which should protect both sides' national interests.

--Adjust immediately irrational purchasing prices and encourage appropriately the purchase of high-quality raw materials.

--Organize the collection of various kinds of discards and recyclable raw materials to provide consumer goods with more raw materials.

--Reserve in priority foreign exchange for importing those raw materials which we must import.

About Policies:

--Rescind immediately those policies and procedures which are restraining the force of small industry and handicrafts. that force includes cooperative, production units, and the household, private, and individual economies, which are producing 50 percent of consumer goods and still have great capabilities of attracting millions of laborers.

--Set aside appropriate quotas of raw materials and energy for and organize properly the supply of these raw materials to production installations; switch vigorously to the contract formula of selling raw materials to purchase products. Adjust contract prices in order to truly stimulate production, raise product quality, and renovate merchandise. Make sure that producers receive adequate allocations of grain. Improve the tax policy toward small industry and handicraft laborers to encourage the development of those sectors and crafts which should be developed.

--Consumption should be rational and thrifty and the use of domestic consumer goods should be encouraged.

Directions and Norms on Developing Consumer Goods

About Commodities:

--Give special attention to accelerating textile production, seeing to it that other woven goods are produced in adequate quantities; increase rapidly paper production, making writing paper, printing paper, and textbooks in sufficient quantities and supplying more paper to other needs. Increase production of various kinds of usual drugs; supply adequate quantities of raw materials to state-operated sugar factories; guide qualifying districts and villages to plant sugarcane; develop small-scale processing installations; and solve local needs on the spot. Production of tea, canned vegetables and fruit, beer, and refreshement drinks should proceed rationally to meet consumer needs and export goals. As far as tobacco is concerned, we should first of all, supply sufficient quantities of raw material to central state-run factories, rearrange production installations and put an end to the current state of chaotic production. We should re-arrange and enlarge the production of metallic consumer goods, such as bicycles, electric fans, watches, and sewing machines, and should imporve product quality. Since soap and laundry detergents are consumer good that can never be in short supply, we should provide them with enough raw materials and should conduct rigorous quality control.

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FUND SHORTAGES SLOW RUBBER PLANTATION PROGRESS

42090553 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 15 Jun 87 p 2

[Article by Le Quang Ty: "Dong Phu Rubber Corporation: Results and Unresolved Problems in Achievement of Vietnamese-Soviet Cooperative Investment"]

[Text] Founded in May 1981, Dong Phu Rubber Corporation is one of 13 major corporations engaged in agreements with the Soviet Union to establish cooperative groves. The corporation has a mission of clearing, newly planting and tapping rubber trees for latex in the red earth region along the left bank of the Be River and along both sides of Route 14 from Thuan Loi through Dong Xoai to Phuoc Vinh (in Dong Phu District, Song Be Province), a location closely connected with many combat exploits during the years of resistance against the United States.

The corporation has 8 state farms and 2 enterprises with more than 5,700 laborers. The management apparatus accounts for 5 percent while the remaining force is directly engaged in production labor. The state farms have established directly subordinate units (with no intermediate level), each with 7 or 8 individuals engaged in planting, caring for and tapping latex from 500 to 700 hectares of rubber trees. Between the state farm and the unit, a work volume contract is implemented in accordance with norms and texts, and wages paid in accordance with actual products received. The technical bureaus, under direct command of the deputy director, follow a specific work plan that is closely connected with direct production requirements. Land clearance and rubber tree planting demand many laborers but after completing grove capital construction and shifting to tree care and tapping, labor volume requirements drastically decline with technical skills still in demand. Therefore, if initial recruiting was sufficient, workers would later be in excess of the table of organization and equipment. To resolve this contradiction, the corporation made rental labor contracts with a number of military units, colleges, the 1st and 11th precincts of Ho Chi Minh City, and cooperatives in Dong Phu, rented mechanical graders and bulldozers, etc. Thanks to that, under conditions in which the table of organization and equipment has not appreciably increased during the past few years, the corporation has still managed to complete a large volume of work. Technical requirements were attained in the land clearance and planting during 1984 over more than 2,000 hectares, during 1985 over more than 1,500 hectares, and over more than 2,000 hectares during 1986. To the present time, the corporation has attained 7,500

hectares of good green rubber trees; simultaneously completing and exceeding the norms for establishing rubber tree groves in cooperation with the friends, and also converting an uncultivated area into new economic-technical-cultural-social complexes. Specialists of the friends who regularly visit here are happy over these initial results.

The corporation also simultaneously emphasized the organization of latex tapping and full utilization of old rubber cookers abandoned through decades of war. Since 1981, thousands of tons of latex have been tapped, put through preliminary processing and delivered (exceeding planned level each year by dozens of tons) to support export and domestic production.

Nevertheless, the activity process has been unable to avoid ups and downs with many difficulties and unresolved problems caused by subjective and objective reasons that must be promptly overcome.

First of all is the problem of the workers' lives. Because "one must live in peace before being content with one's occupation," the old precept of "grove and life" must be changed to "life and grove" in order to supervise and operate precisely in keeping with objective requirements. Recognizing this, the corporation has many methods in concern for and improvement of the workers' lives. In the unused and empty spaces between rows of rubber trees not yet in full canopy, rice, peanuts, beans, etc. have been interplanted, and the workers and their families set aside time to plant, care for and harvest 100 percent of these crops. The families are issued 500 to 700 sq m of land to build a house and to dig a pond for raising fish, and receive guidance and assistance in planting trees, both to make an economic profit and to protect the ecology. The corporation produces its own bricks for construction. A number of families were each initially advanced 20 bags of cement, bricks, roofing materials, etc., enough to build a house of 35 sq m, in conjunction with cashew nut and coffee plants and pepper spikes, with the money to be recovered gradually. However, because capital and materials were in short supply, achievement was limited. Generally speaking, there is no shortage of food but the internal situation of the sector occasionally causes the workers to feel that their future and expectations are dim and leads them to abandon their state farm work. If a family, one individual remains on the rolls while one returns to give concern for strengthening their situation on that piece of land. During 1986, the corporation had 6,416 laborers with 6,500 dependents, and at the end of the first quarter 1987, 5,717 laborers with 6,400 dependents.

The concern given living conditions depends a great deal on financial capabilities. The materials and equipment delivered by the friends have generally been in keeping with the rate of progress and in sufficient quantity (including housing construction materials), and the sector's material corporation has made efforts to receive and ship large quantities of supplies and fragile materials into storage areas such as fibro cement tiles with a loss rate of less than 1 percent. However, shipment to Dong Phu as well as many other corporations has been slow because of no operating expenses. Delay by planning, financial, etc. agencies has restricted the rate of material and capital construction to support production and life. The percentage of capital reserved for housing construction in the investment structure is too

low, and because of cost overruns, lack of operating expenses, and delay, effectiveness has steadily declined.

Because land clearance, cultivation, cross-grafting and tapping of rubber trees are dependent upon the laws of the natural environment, the allotment of capital, materials, equipment, etc. must be increasingly prompt, in keeping with the rate of progress, and not spread out over the year or delayed. The steps taken must also be appropriate and work that is developed impetuously or in pursuit of area expansion has not and will not ensure the technical skills of grafting, pruning, thinning and caring for the rubber trees, limiting the economic effectiveness.

In the plan until 1990, Dong Phu Rubber Corporation will strive to complete 21,500 hectares of newly planted rubber trees with the number of workers reaching 14,000 to annually deliver tens of thousands of tons of rubber. If the difficulties and unresolved problems above are promptly overcome, the initial progress of Dong Phu in particular and the Vietnam rubber sector in general will expand the expectations of a leading edge sector in the export and international cooperation program.

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BRIEFS

SAIGON PORT CARGO HANDLING--During April, Saigon port handled 21,800 tons of cargo, attaining 118.7 percent of the plan. An estimated 800,000 tons were handled by the port during the past 4 months, 40 percent of the annual plan and a 2 percent increase over the same period last year. Aimed at swiftly increasing cargo handling productivity, the port has implemented an efficient handling plan, organized ship off-loading at the buoys, and fully utilized available bags for rapid cargo handling, releasing 32 ships ahead of the stipulated period. The port has also urgently arranged for study and application of Resolution 316 of the Political Bureau and Resolution 76 of the Council of Ministers, expanding the production and business autonomy of basic units. It has also combined indirect units in the project management, design, project enterprise, labor safety, etc. components and has increased the number of capable cadres directly engaged in production to raise job efficiency. [Text] [Hanoi GIAO THONG VAN TAI in Vietnamese 21 May 87 p 2] 7300

HANOI PORT CARGO HANDLING--During April, Hanoi port handled 66,000 tons of cargo passing through the port, exceeding the planned level by 1.5 percent. The port has assigned plans and norms to production teams and units for promptly releasing ship convoys, has assigned an output level to each cargo handling shift, conveyor and crane operator team, and has instituted development of plans for typhoon and flood control to ensure the safety of personnel, cargo and equipment during the entire typhoon season. [By Nguyen Hap] [Excerpt] [Hanoi GIAO THONG VAN TAI in Vietnamese 21 May 87 p 3] 7300

VUNG TAU INTERNATIONAL SEAPORT--On 14 April 1987, with the authorization of the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Transportation and Communications signed Decision 106/QD-PC officially recognizing the port of Vung Tau as a new international seaport of our nation. This is the eighth port of Vietnam to attain the status of an international port. However, this port does not lie within the seaport framework managed by the General Sea Transportation Department but is managed instead by the Vung Tau-Con Dao Special Zone and the Vietnamese-Soviet Joint Petroleum Venture. Specifically: the Cat Lo Port portion is operated directly by the Vung Tau-Con Dao Special Zone in exploiting and supporting the local economy; and the petroleum trade port portion and offshore oil import-export port portion located off the coast of Vung Tau is directly operated by the Vietnamese-Soviet Joint Petroleum Venture in exploiting and supporting individual requirements. The Vung Tau port department chief and port department apparatus operate independently alongside the port director and are under the direct supervision of the General Sea Transportation Department. This is also an experimental model of port department operational organization separated from the port enterprise, as proposed by the General Sea Transportation Department. Establishment of the Vung Tau international seaport opens a development course in the study to provide an international seaport status to a number of local ports and economic sectors not subordinate to the Ministry of Communications and Transportation. [Text] [GIAO THONG VAN TAI in Vietnamese 21 May 87 p 2] 7300

MALNUTRITION LAID TO RURAL POPULATION GROWTH, MISMANAGEMENT

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 10 Jun 87 p 7

[Article by Erhard Haubold: "Vietnam Unable to Feed So Many People--Poor Health, Unemployment, Lack of Hard Currency--Rural Population Growth Creates Problems"]

[Text] Hanoi, in June--25 percent of all Vietnamese children are suffering from malnutrition. In the armed forces, the elite institution of Vietnam, beriberi, a sickness caused by a deficiency of Vitamin B1, has reached epidemic proportions. NHAN DAN, the party newspaper, reported on this state of affairs, adding that soldiers--particularly those stationed in Kampuchea--were suffering from diarrhea, hemorrhagic fever, ringworm, encephalitis, fungus-induced skin ailments and of course from malaria. The antibiotics used to fight these various complaints are usually too old, the account went on to say; the road conditions are too poor to permit transportation of the injured and the problems connected with blood transfusions are "chronic."

Ever since the 6th party congress last December, things are being talked about with a certain openness. "We are all very small and blue and green," Huu Tho, NHAN DAN's deputy editor-in-chief, told us in a conversation we had with him in Hanoi. The average Vietnamese family, he said, consumes about 1,840 calories a day--as against 2,000 calories elsewhere in Asia. "Only 10 percent of the calories consumed are proteins; but our scientists feel that the protein content should be at least 20 or 30 percent," he added. Under the circumstances, small children and older persons run the risk of malnutrition, one-sided nutrition and intestinal sickness. Those who suffer most are those "who uphold the state," i.e., the soldiers, party functionaries, government officials, teachers and their children. They are rarely able to augment their nominal monthly income (which comes to a single American dollar at black market prices) with semi-legal business transactions.

Corruption and laxity under socialism as well as the isolation of Western credits and imports (since the invasion of Kampuchea) have added to Vietnam's woes. The principal problem, however, is the population-to-arable-land ratio. 65 to 70 million people live in the long but mostly narrow strip of land along the South China Sea coast. The per capita cultivated area of 1.1 hectares is one of the smallest in the Third World; but the birth rate is one of the highest. Over the past 40 years, the population of Vietnam has grown

threefold. If population growth which presently stands at 2.2 to 2.5 percent per year is not lowered drastically and soon, Vietnam may have to feed between 90 and 100 million people by the turn of the century. With every passing year, Vietnam needs to create one million new jobs. It actually manages to create 500,000 and most of these are of poor quality. Huu Tho estimates the working population to be 30 million--20 million in agriculture and 10 million in industry. Unemployment or severe underemployment affects 30 percent of those working in agriculture and 50 percent of those working in industry, he says.

"The one who made elephants will also provide the grass for them to eat," an old Vietnamese proverb has it. But the proverb no longer holds true. To be sure, Vietnam had to import only 1.6 million tons of grain between 1981 and 1986--as against 5.6 million tons during the preceding 5-year period. "Just the same," Huu Tho informed us, "we are unable to provide enough food for the population on our own." For a few years, the harvests almost reached the level of self-sufficiency as farm production increased slightly faster than the population, i.e. by an average of five percent between 1981 and 1985. But last year it rose by only two percent, i.e. less than the rate of population growth. It is extremely doubtful whether the race can be won. UN experts in Hanoi believe that a single natural disaster or a bad harvest could result in a catastrophic food shortage. They point out that the 300-kilogram annual per capita supply of grain is below the minimum set by the UN for developing nations; that there is no new arable land available and that there is no hope of bigger harvests in the already overpopulated deltas of the Red River in the north and the Mekong River in the south. Vietnam does not have the hard currency to pay for fertilizer, seed or modern farm equipment. "Our material and technological base is too small," Huu Tho said. "We produce a mere five billion kilowatt hours of electric power for our population of more than 60 million.

Gerardo Gonzalez, who heads the Hanoi office of the UN Fund for Population Activities, calls Vietnam's population problem "dramatic." For a long time, birth control was not taken seriously, particularly in the "Catholic" South. The North, which waged a 30-year war against France and the United States, needed additional manpower for its army and its industry. Even today, males make up only 47 percent of the population. The goal set by the last 5-year plan of lowering the "natural population growth rate" to 1.7 percent by 1985 was not met. The UN bureau estimates that the net growth rate, not including migration, is closer to 2.24 percent. Exact figures, however, are hard to come by. The international agency plans to fund a national demographic study so that an independent estimate of population figures as well as growth and mortality rates should become available by the end of 1987. In addition, a condom factory is being built with UN help in Ho Chi Minh City. It is to turn out 70 million condoms each year which will be distributed free of charge.

Vietnam has a lot of catching up to do. In neighboring China, 80 percent of all women of childbearing age are using contraceptives; in Vietnam less than 30 percent do. Gonzalez believes that the new family planning goals set by the 6th party congress last December are "not inconceivable," i.e. to lower the rate of population growth to 1.7 percent by 1990 and to 1.1 percent by the turn of the century. A lot depends on political motivation and logistics; but in the villages little evidence of either can be detected. Six or seven

children per family are the average; and among the ethnic minorities which make up some 12 percent of the population families are even larger. One functionary said that he himself has seven children and that the population in his village increases by four percent each year. He expressed shock when told by a Western visitor that he had but two daughters. A poll conducted among 300 chairmen of agricultural cooperatives found that 60 percent of those questioned felt that children bring good luck and that the more children there are, the better it is for the family and its income. The respondents also felt that this does no harm to society and that one needs to have more than two or three children if for no other reason than that one should not "lag behind" the other clans in one's village. 80 percent of those questioned expressed fear of loneliness in their old age, saying that they would wish to have as many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren attend their funeral.

In the big cities of Hanoi, Haiphong and Ho Chi Minh City, the rate of population growth already declined in 1985 by 1.6 to 1.7 percent. But 80 percent of the Vietnamese population live in villages and 70 percent are working on farms. The many cooperatives and kolkhozes to the contrary notwithstanding, the family continues to be the principal production unit. This fact and the primitive technology available turn large numbers of children into a valuable asset--leaving religious and cultural considerations as well as support in old age entirely aside. In contrast to China, large families in Vietnam are given more land to farm for their private use. Hospital care and child delivery are free; pregnancy leaves are granted without regard to the number of children already born.

For the time being, things are unlikely to change--the more so since the new and more liberal economic policy expressly supports "production within the family" both in the cities and the countryside. The more children there are, the larger will be the surplus which will not have to be turned over to the state but can be sold on the free market. That may become the watchword for the future. "If only they had more land," Gonzalez says.

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DRUG ADDICTION IN NORTH DISCUSSED

Hanoi LAO DONG in Vietnamese 18 Jun 87 p 6

[Article by Dr To Xuan Con, Central Hospital of Neurology and Psychiatry:
"Solution Needs Concern"]

[Text] Narcotics and opium have existed in Vietnam since the feudal and French periods due to the monopoly held by foreign merchants. Addicts were usually from the rich class such as landowner bourgeoisie. This social ill was stamped out after the liberation of the north in 1954, but in the south during the U.S.-puppet period, a fairly widespread development in narcotics occurred.

After the liberation of the south, addicts were concentrated for treatment. However, along with the development of many aspects of social negativism, the narcotic and opium addiction mentioned above spread to the north, into the cities and to a number of scattered locations in the rural area. To this time, almost 60 people have received treatment at the Central Hospital of Neurology and Psychiatry, the Vietnam Acupuncture Hospital, and neurology ward of Bach Mai Hospital, and a number have been treated at home. From this number of people and through preliminary investigation, the age group of addicts is from 18 to 50 with sporadic cases of 12 to 14. In Hanoi at the present time, the number of addicts is fairly great.

This is an affliction of society. It is presently drawing youths and teenagers into degeneracy, loss of labor ability, spiritual and mental decadence, destruction of the economy and happiness of many families, and the creation of other corrupt social practices.

It is therefore suggested that responsible agencies give concern to a solution.

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